■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1

Jennifer Aniston on Vince, Brad and their 'Break-Up'

■ NEWS / A2

Bank manager first to be convicted of money laundering

■ WORLD / A25

At the urgent appeal of East Timor, Australia, Portugal send troops

■ LIFESTYLE / C2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, May 26, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 167 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Rare moment: Bunye says sorry to Pimentel

ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

By TJ Burgonio

HE IS SORRY, A RARE moment, to be sure, coming from a Palace official.

After months of silence, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye finally apologized to Senate Minority

RARE/ A21

Delicate balancing act: Gov't verdict on Lafayette

By Judy Quiros and Dennis Jay C. Santos
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—A DELICATE BALANCING ACT IT will be.

Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes the other day said he would decide next week the fate of Lafayette Philippines Inc. in accordance with the government's policies of encouraging foreign investments in the mining sector, improving the

DELICATE/ A12

Gray-haired soul singer wins 2006 'American Idol'

"I AM LIVING THE AMERICAN DREAM," screams Taylor Hicks, the "American Idol" champion who bested Katherine McPhee (left). Now on its fifth edition, "Idol" enjoyed its most successful run ever with a total of more than 63 million votes cast, more than any president in US history has received. It returns for a sixth series in January. AP

LOS ANGELES—GRAY-HAIRED SOUL singer Taylor Hicks won the 2006 "American Idol" contest yesterday, capturing the hearts and votes of millions of viewers in the fifth edition of America's top-rated TV show.

Hicks, 29, who was told in auditions that he was too gray to be a pop star, beat balladeer Katharine McPhee in the climax of a nationwide contest that attracted tens of thousands of wannabe performers.

"Thank you America! I'm living the American Dream," screamed Hicks at the end of the show.

The winner was announced at the end of a star-studded finale at Hollywood's Kodak Theater featuring performances by Prince, Dionne Warwick, Mary J. Blige, Burt Bacharach, Toni Braxton and Meat Loaf.

Alabama native Hicks, beloved for his manic dancing, is the oldest "American Idol" winner in the reality TV series that has become a ratings juggernaut attracting some 30 million viewers a week since January.

Once derided as a cheesy talent show,

GRAY-HAIRED/ A21

Erap 5 free on DOJ order

Senators, CHR hit warrantless arrests, detention, cover-up

By Armand N. Nocum and Luige A. del Puerto

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL GONZALEZ YESterday ordered the release of five detained supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada, saying the evidence was insufficient to hold them on rebellion charges.

The five men were released from the Philippine National Police Custodial Center in Camp Crame at around 7:45 last night and were welcomed by their relatives. Accompanied by lawyer Salvador Panelo, the five proceeded to the house in Quezon City where they were arrested on Monday.

Panelo said he would file charges of illegal arrest, arbitrary detention and serious physical injuries against the arresting officers.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Gonzalez admitted that the evidence against his supposed assassins were at best "circumstantial" and would not hold up in court.

"That's why I have ordered them released. We feel that the evidence may not be sufficient to declare probable cause," said the justice secretary, one of six Cabinet officials supposedly targeted for assassination by Ruben Dionisio, Virgilio Eustaquio, Jim Lucio Cabauatan, Dennis Ibuna and PO3 Jose Justo Curameng.

Eustaquio chairs the pro-Estrada Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice.

The five men were arrested on

ERAP 5/ A8

Palace sidesteps criticism

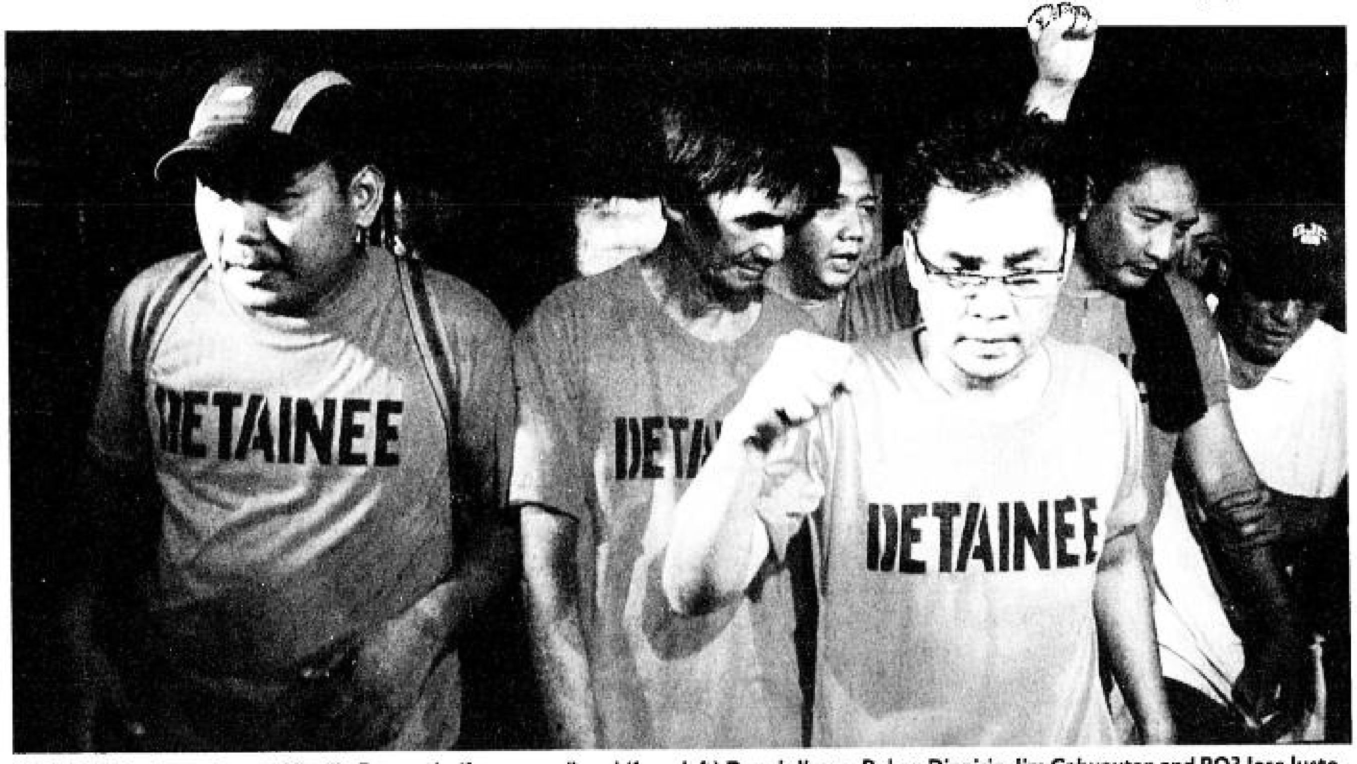
By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG YESTERday sidestepped criticism on the warrantless arrest and alleged torture of five supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada, and hailed the military's handling of what it described as "a serious matter of criminal justice."

"I think what is important is the five have been arrested for an alleged conspiracy," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye when asked if the Palace would order an inquiry into the action of the Armed Forces.

"The proper charges have been filed, so let's move on from there. I don't think it will

PALACE/ A10



RELEASED in Camp Crame: Virgilio Eustaquio (foreground) and (from left) Dennis Ibona, Ruben Dionisio, Jim Cabuautan and PO3 Jose Justo Curameng. RAFFY LERMA

TORTURE RAP

'I was tied to ceiling, they were hitting me all over'

By Luige A. del Puerto

ONE OF THE DETAINED SUPporters of deposed President Joseph Estrada yesterday reiterated his claim of torture, and showed reporters bruises on his back and abdomen.

Lying in a bed at the PNP Hospital in Camp Crame, 60-year-old Ruben Dionisio raised his T-shirt and said government agents had taken turns beating him while he was blindfolded.

His back and abdomen bore bruises. The skin appeared to have been pricked with needles and was streaked red and black, particularly a patch near his right kidney.

Gesturing and lowering his voice to a whisper, Dionisio said that electric shocks had been administered to his genitals, and at that one point, his head was shoved into a plastic bag, apparently with the intention

I WAS/ A8

2 jail officers, 3 others charged in lensman's slay

By Armand N. Nocum and Nancy Carvajal

POLICE YESTERDAY FILED MURDER CHARGES against five people, including two jail officers, for the May 16 ambush-killing of photojournalist Albert Orsolino in Caloocan City.

"The five suspects were all positively identified by several witnesses through photographs gathered by police investigators," said Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, chief of the Northern Police District.

He identified them as JO2 Ramon Rivera, JO1 Reynaldo Nicolas, Rommel Lizaran, Franklin Sabe and Rolando Manang.

Bataoil said the suspects were now being hunted by police.

Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco said the complaint showed that the killing might not have been related to Orsolino's job as a journalist. The victim worked for the daily tabloid Saksi and covered Malacañang.

The complaint, filed in the Department of Justice, tagged Lizaran as the gunman, and Sabe and Manang as lookouts. Rivera and Nicolas were also reported to have taken part in the plot to kill Orsolino, who was also a barangay councilman in Caloocan.

"Police investigation showed that this may

2 JAIL/ A10

Palawan cop charged with radioman's slay

By Marlon Ramos and Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PROSECUTORS YESTERDAY FILED CHARGES against a policeman in the murder of a Palawan radio broadcaster who had chastised him on air for purportedly pointing his gun at a waitress and customers in a videoke bar in Puerto Princessa City.

Witnesses said two men on a motorcycle fatally shot Fernando "Dong" Batul, a commentator for dyPR Radio in Puerto Princesa City, while he was driving to work early Monday

PALAWAN/ A10

Bigger, heavier, meatier carabaos here

By Anselmo Roque
PDI Central Luzon Desk

SCIENCE CITY OF MUÑOZ—THEY'RE TWICE the size and weight of native carabaos, and the females produce 10 times more milk.

The bigger, heavier and meatier carabaos—products of a technology developed by the Philippine Carabao Center (PCC) here—can now be found in several provinces as part of the government's dispersal efforts.

They weigh more than 700 kilograms, or double the average weight of their native counterparts.

Their milk production averages six liters a day, but some animals can produce 12 to 18 liters at their peak. In contrast, the female natives yield an average of only 1.5 liters of milk a day.

Historical accounts indicated that thousands of water buffaloes from China, Cambodia and India were brought to the country in the early 1900s. The animals were comparatively bigger at more than 500 kg each, but due to neglect, their size and weight declined.

Research and development efforts to stop the deteriorating quality of the Philippine carabao started in 1973 and were strengthened in 1981.

BIGGER/ A21

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/05/25/06

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Bank exec guilty of money laundering

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES YESTERDAY FINALLY SCORED its first victory against money laundering after a bank manager was convicted for helping divert P15.9 million in import duties intended to be paid to the Bureau of Customs by Mitsubishi Corp. to a private account.

Anti-Money Laundering Council executive director Vicente Aquino announced that the Pasig Regional Trial Court yesterday issued a ruling convicting Eric Allagadan, former manager of Union Bank of the Philippines, Annapolis Greenhills, branch, with the crime of money laundering.

"He facilitated the crime of money laundering and under the law, that's also a crime of money laundering and he was sentenced to imprisonment of four years minimum to six years maximum," Aquino said.

It was a significant milestone for the Philippines, Aquino said, since this was the very first among over 20 cases filed by AMLC since 2002.

Money laundering is a crime whereby the proceeds of an unlawful activity are transacted, thereby making them appear to have originated from legitimate sources.

Aquino said Allagadan helped a criminal group defraud the government of customs duties. Fortunately, he said, the AMLC was able to freeze over P12 million of the amount diverted to a private account owned by one Mario Misa and the syndicate was able to withdraw only about P2 million.

He said the bank manager had long been fired by UnionBank which also cooperated in building up the case against Allagadan.

On March 18, 2002, the court said, Allagadan facilitated the deposit of a Global Bank manager's check with number 0006482056 dated March 15 of the same year payable to the BOC for the account of Mitsubishi Corp., Manila branch, in the amount of P15.92 million.

Although the check was crossed and should have been deposited only to the account of the BOC, the funds were transferred to UnionBank accounts held by Misa in UnionBank branches in Dasmarinas, Malate and Pasong Tamo.

Some P2 million was encashed over the counter at UnionBank Annapolis branch.

"Mitsubishi Corp. is the importer of certain items and through its broker, Goto Logistics, a manager's check was purchased payable to the BOC worth P15.9 million," Aquino said.

"The predictable offense here is swindling. This criminal group was able to defraud the government of these customs duties," Aquino said.

The implementing rules and regulations of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001 defines money laundering as a process comprising of several stages, namely, the physical disposal of the physical proceeds from their source by creating layers of financial transactions to disguise the audit trail, and the integration or the provision of apparent legitimacy to the criminal proceeds.

The court said the evidence established that Misa transacted the illegal profit by depositing the checks to his personal account instead of applying them to the payment of customs and duties for the account of Mitsubishi.

"By preponderant evidence, it was shown that the former employee and/or representative of Goto, particularly Reynaldo Nicolas, had defrauded Goto as well as Mitsubishi Manila by paying the BOC an undervalued customs duties and taxes via fictitious commercial invoice instead of the amount covered by the subject check entrusted to his possession in order to convert the same to his own personal gain or benefit through the instrumentality of one Mario Misa, depositor of UnionBank, Annapolis branch," the court said in its ruling handed down by Judge Alfredo Flores.

Brokerage Goto was forced to pay through its own funds the deficiency taxes of P15.35 million to the BOC in order to release the cargo belonging to Mitsubishi, the court noted.

"Accused Allagadan's claim that he merely accommodated a long time client in his desire to increase the cash level of the bank is flimsy and does not inspire belief," the Pasig RTC said.

"It was inherently expected of him to know that the subject check, from its face, was derived from an unlawful activity. He allowed the deposit of the said check to Mario Misa's account when glaringly it is extant that the check is a crossed check payable to the BOC and therefore can only be deposited to the account of the payee," it added.

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Polyphonic Ring Tones		6 tones	32 tones	6 tones	5 tones	5 tones	6 tones
Recordable Customized Ringer							●
Key Lock		●	●	●	●	●	
Colored LCD				●			●
Large LCD with Blue Backlight			●				
Lighted Handset Keypad			●	●	●	●	●
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Intercom w/ 2-way paging					●	●	
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Dual Keypads					●	●	
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USB Connection							●
Infrared Port for Data Exchange							●
Audio Connector							●
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Solons to probe new RP-US security deal

MILITANT LAWMAKERS SAID Thursday they planned to call for an investigation to determine the legality of a new security arrangement between the Philippines and the United States that seeks to bolster the fight against terrorism and other threats.

The militant group Bayan said it also planned to stage a protest at the US Embassy, warning that the security arrangement broadened Washington's platform to intervene in Philippine affairs.

The arrangement, announced on Wednesday, formally expands the grounds for American forces to stage joint military exercises in the country.

It involves setting up a new joint consultative panel called the Security Engagement Board to discuss possible joint exercises and cooperation in dealing with nontraditional security concerns such as terrorism, crime, maritime safety and security, disasters and epidemics, said Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz.

Party-list Rep. Teodoro Casiño said his left-wing party, Bayan Muna, will file a resolution urging the House of Representatives to investigate whether the new arrangement complied with the Constitution or if it needed Senate ratification.

Casiño said he and other lawmakers, along with the public, didn't even know the negotiations that led to the board's creation were taking place and, therefore, they were unable to participate.

Cruz said the security board was set up under an executive agreement approved by President Macapagal-Arroyo and did not require approval by the Senate, which ratifies treaties.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, who heads the Senate defense committee, said he was studying whether the new security arrangement needed Senate approval.

Bayan, meanwhile, said it planned to petition the Supreme Court to void the agreement if there were irregularities in it.

"We're afraid that legal shortcuts may have been taken to accommodate US forces," said Bayan secretary general Renato Reyes Jr.

The Philippines and the US signed a Mutual Defense Treaty in 1951 to help defend each other in case of external attacks. More recently, they forged a Visiting Forces Agreement that allows US forces to join large-scale military exercises in the Philippines.

Cruz said he and other officials recommended the establishment of the board to discuss security concerns such as terrorism which did not fall under the MDT.

President Arroyo is one of the most vocal backers in Asia of Washington's global war on terror and has allowed US forces to train and arm Filipino soldiers battling al Qaida-linked militants in Mindanao, the scene of decades-old separatist uprisings.

US officials have long been concerned about the presence of an al Qaida-linked militant group, the Abu Sayyaf, in the southern Philippines. The small, violent group has been blamed for high-profile kidnappings and beheadings, including of Americans. *AP*

Senate, House panels fail to agree on Cha-cha

By Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet Labog-Javellana

THE FIRST DIALOGUE ON CHARTER change between the Senate and the House ended in a deadlock late Wednesday although the two panels have agreed to meet again.

"The Senate and the House have divergent positions," said Sen. Manuel Villar, a member of the Senate committee on constitutional amendments who attended the three-hour meeting with the House panel led by Rep. Constantino Jaraula at the Manila Polo Club.

"As you can see, we are not fighting. We are very cordial, very pleasant. It was very frank but very cordial," said Sen. Richard Gordon, the committee chair.

Jaraula, who chairs the House committee on constitutional amendments, said there was no basis to agree on anything with the five senators at the meeting. Indeed, nothing was agreed on except to meet again on June 8.

As things stand, the House constitutional amendments committee has two options: Force the Senate to take formal action on Concurrent Resolution No. 26 seeking to convene Congress into a constituent assembly to amend or revise the Constitution; or have House Resolution No. 1230, containing a proposed revised Constitution which is pending at the committee level, adopted by the plenary and presented to the people for approval in a plebiscite.

A third alternative is to wait for the result of the people's initiative being pushed by local government officials and the private-led Sigaw ng Bayan.

Jaraula said the people's initiative was a fallback position that the House could readily support should the Senate-House dialogue bog down.

Gordon said the Senate panel reiterated the Senate position that the two houses of Congress should vote separately instead of jointly in a constituent assembly.

"I said in no uncertain terms the position of the Senate is that if we will not vote separately we will not agree (to a constituent assembly)," Gordon said.

The House leaders said the discussion immediately bogged down after Gordon insisted on talking about the mode of amending the Charter before discussing the specific amendments.

Camarines Sur Rep. Luis Villafuerte had proposed that the bicameral panels first agree on the amendments before talking about how best to achieve them.

The Senate preferred legislated amendments, that is, that Congress can amend the Charter without sitting as a constituent assembly but propose and approve amendments in the same manner that they pass legislation.

Jaraula said he sensed that the Senate panel was telling the congressmen that the House could not go it alone.

Gordon said the House wanted an assurance that the senators would approve the amendments to be proposed by the House.

"I said nobody knows that. If you file a bill, are you sure it's going to be approved? No, I cannot speak for the others because they may have a different view," Gordon said.

RP expects MILF deal by Ramadan

THE PHILIPPINES EXPECTS TO SIGN A peace deal with Muslim separatists in time for the Islamic holy month of Ramadan later this year, a top official said Thursday.

The deal would end the Moro Islamic Liberation Front's (MILF) fight for a separate state in Mindanao, where they have been waging a bloody rebellion since 1978, Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz said.

Peace talks with the MILF are in the final stages, with both parties now firming up the details on how to handle traditional Muslim lands, where the MILF would be entitled to a share of economic development.

"If we are able to conclude the final peace agreement with the MILF, we'll have dramatically improved the security, stability in central Mindanao," Cruz told reporters.

He said Manila was "confident" a political settlement would be reached before the start of Ramadan.

The Philippines signed a cease-fire pact with the 12,000-strong MILF in 2003 ahead of peace talks.

The MILF has denounced its links to foreign Islamic militant groups, including the Jemaah Islamiyah network, which was blamed for the deadly bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali in 2002 and last year. *AFP*

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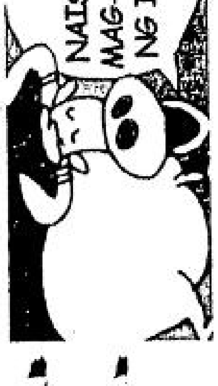

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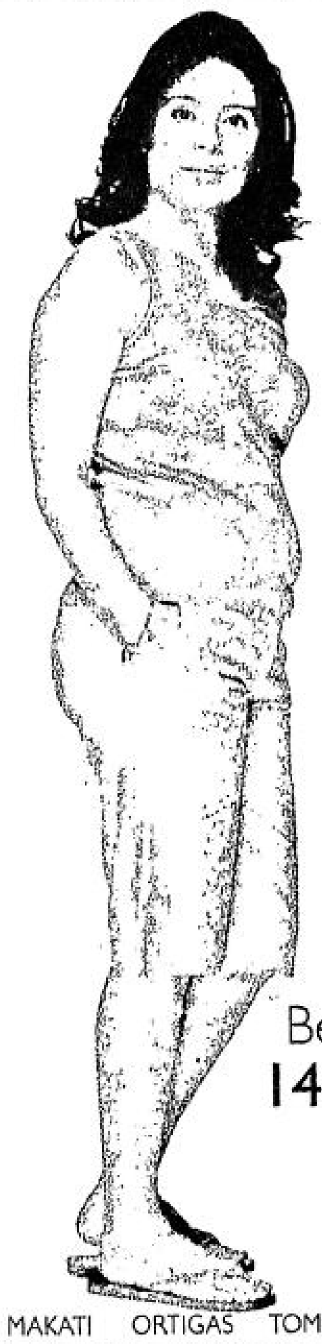

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Journalists want protection, not guns

THE NATIONAL UNION OF JOURNALISTS of the Philippines yesterday rejected the government's suggestion that journalists and other media workers bear arms to protect themselves from assassins.

"We rejected it then, we reject it now. Such a suggestion is nothing but an abject admission that government is either unable or unwilling to protect us," Jose Torres Jr., NUJP spokesperson, said in a statement e-mailed to media offices.

"We do not wish to add to the bloody mayhem that has claimed the lives of so many of our colleagues, of hundreds of activists and dissenters, of countless more ordinary citizens as government vainly seeks an explanation for a breakdown of law and order it has been unable to prevent or, as many are beginning to believe, actually abetted," Torres said.

While acknowledging that citizens have a right to own and carry guns for self-defense, he said that arming journalists was not the solution to the continuing killings.

"We would like to point out that a number of our recently slain colleagues had, in fact, armed themselves, albeit in vain," Torres said.

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said last Tuesday that Malacañang was amenable to arming members of the media in the face of the continued killings, the most recent of which was last Monday's slaying of Palawan broadcaster Fernando Batul.

"Only the surety that the guilty will be punished will dissuade those with murder in their minds," he said.

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño also criticized the suggestion.

"Would Malacañang also allow the arming of activists? Or how about children, 43 of whom have fallen victims to extrajudicial killings since 2001?" Casiño said in a statement.

Casifio, whose party-list organization has so far suffered 94 assassinations since 2001, claimed that the Arroyo administration was not serious in putting a stop to the killings since it benefits from the silencing of its critics.

Meanwhile, a senior police official in Bulacan yesterday offered to train journalists on how to use guns in the wake of the killings and threats against media people.

Supt. Sheldon Jacaban made the offer after Rommel Ramos, who anchors a radio program over dzRH's "Radyo Natin" in Malolos, claimed that a local official had threatened him for exposing irregularities in the issuance of identification cards to more than 5,000 tricycle drivers and operators.

"You should know how to protect yourselves," Jacaban told reporters. "You have to learn how to fire to defend yourselves." *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

2 killed by suspected Abu

GUNMEN BELIEVED TO BE ABU SAYYAF bandits have gunned down two civilians they suspected were Philippine government agents, the military said Thursday.

Jurick Pollalos, 22, was shot and killed in a coffee shop in Patikul in Jolo, Sulu, at dawn Wednesday. Minutes later, Ruel Bernal, 32, suffered the same fate in another part of the island.

"The killing of these innocent civilians is believed to be the handiwork of the urban terrorist group of the Abu Sayyaf operating in Jolo," said military southern command spokesperson Capt. Jose Richie Pabilonia. *AFP*

Abductors said they were cops, witnesses claim

WITNESSES SAID YESTERDAY THE MEN WHO abducted Bayan Muna member Roland Ralla Porter around noon on May 16 in front of a neighborhood store in Barangay Olympia, Makati City, identified themselves as policemen.

A tricycle driver told investigators that one of the kidnappers said he was a member of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (PNP-CIDG), while the woman who tended the store said the men introduced themselves as policemen.

But the Makati Police Station Intelligence and Investigation Section (SIIS) said the PNP-CIDG denied that the unit had an operation in Makati City at the time.

"Negative. We went to the CIDG and they said if they had any operation here, they would have coordinated with [the regional and district police offices] and the station. It is possible that those involved just used the name CIDG," said an SIIS officer, who declined to give his name citing security considerations.

In a report on Porter's disappearance, the Makati police called attention to the statement of the tricycle driver who said a man flashed a CIDG identification card before boarding his vehicle.

The tricycle driver was then instructed to tail Porter, who was riding a bicycle, and headed for the store at the corner of Sacramento and San Rafael Streets to buy a "load" for his mobile phone.

The witness told probers that when Porter stopped at the store, the man instructed him to halt the tricycle a few meters past Porter.

A white van (WAA-201) arrived shortly and parked some 10 meters from the store. A man then got off the van and the man in the tricycle followed suit.

Together, they walked up to Porter, grabbed him by his arms and forced him into the van, the witness said.

For her part, the woman at the store said she counted four or five men on board the van before it sped off, including the two who grabbed Porter.

She described one of the abductors as being about 5'8" tall, of medium build, with short hair. She told police that she could identify the others if she saw them again. *Tarra V.Quismundo*

Corrections

IN THE MAY 22 ISSUE, a caption on Page A25 of the Metro section misstated the name of a religious image at the Nuestra Señora de Guia Church in Manila. The church is home to the image of the Nuestra Señora de Guia—not Our Lady of Guadalupe. The same caption also misstated that the image in the Church was the oldest religious icon in the country. The image of the Nuestra Señora de Guia is the oldest Marian icon in the Philippines, but the oldest religious icon is that of the Santo Niño de Cebu.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S ISSUE, a caption on Page A4 misspelled the surname of the US ambassador to the Philippines. The ambassador's name is Kristie Kenney—not Kenny.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, May 26, 2006
6th Week of Easter
Philip Neri

1st Reading: **Acts 18:9-18**
Gospel: **John 16:20-23**

Jesus said to his disciples, "Truly, I say to you, you will weep and mourn while the world rejoices. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow will turn to joy. A woman in childbirth is in distress because her time is at hand. But after the child is born, she no longer remembers her suffering because of such great joy: a human being is born into the world.

"You feel sorrowful now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice. And no one will take your joy from you. When that day comes you will not ask me anything. Truly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my Name, he will give you."

Commentary

Paul is given a vision for encouragement during persecution—ask and receive—reminding him that God is with him and he must continue preaching. Eventually he leaves with Priscilla and Aquila and sails to Syria. Peter and Paul both image what the Church is experiencing in the decades after the death of Jesus. The Church is a woman in labor—giving birth, grieving, struggling, and filled with joy at birth. The Church is being born anew wherever the gospel is preached and the joy that no one can take from believers even when they know suffering and rejection, even death. The joy is given and it is there always.

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Susan advised not to pick up award

By TJ Burgonio

WILL SHE OR WON'T SHE?

Susan Roces, the widow of the late movie actor and presidential candidate Fernando Poe Jr., has been getting advice from all sides about what she should do with the National Artist Award that the government wants to posthumously confer on her late husband.

According to one of Poe's closest advisers, Ernesto Maceda, Roces should not go to Malacañang to accept the award on her husband's behalf as this would "compromise her convictions."

Maceda said if Roces were to go, she would be accepting the award from President Macapagal-Arroyo whom Roces has accused of stealing the presidency from her late husband in 2004.

"I would not advise her to go. Because going to Malacañang to accept an award would be tantamount to reversing your stand that she's [Ms Arroyo] not the legitimate President," he told a forum at the Senate.

"It would be an act accepting that the President has the legitimate right to sign this award and to make this award," Maceda said.

Poe lost to Ms Arroyo by over one million votes in the bitterly contested May 2004 presidential elections and died after suffering a stroke seven months later. Charges have surfaced that the vote had been rigged to favor Ms Arroyo.

The President on Wednesday announced that Poe and six other distinguished Filipino artists were to be conferred the National Artist Award, the highest national recognition accorded Filipinos seen to have made significant contributions to the arts.

A minor controversy erupted in April after Malacañang announced a list of six awardees but withdrew the announcement a few hours later, explaining that the list was not complete at the time.

Partisans of Poe claimed the delay was caused by a Palace plan to withdraw the name of Poe from the list. This was denied by Malacañang which said that Poe had been a strong contender from the start.

Yesterday, Palace officials said the award was a "tribute of the people" to the late movie idol and should not be tainted by politics.

"This award was given voluntarily and in recognition of Poe's contributions to the film industry. Let's not give any political color here," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters.

He was reacting to reports quoting Roces as saying that while she appreciated the recognition of her husband's contributions, she would have preferred that the award be given by someone other than the President.

Bunye said that people had always recognized Poe's "exemplary" contributions to the movie industry and the award reaffirmed "the faith and endearment reposed on his achievements and leadership."

"Let not this tribute of the people be given any political color. We owe it to the memory of the late FPJ and the deserved pride and dignity of his loved ones and supporters," he said.

Maceda recalled that as the 65-year-old Poe lay in his deathbed at the St. Luke's Medical Center in December 2004, Malacañang had asked his family if he would accept a National Artist Award.

He said the message from Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was received by his wife, Marichu, a close friend of Roces.

"Since that time on, the issue has become some sort of a political issue," said Maceda who maintained that Poe deserved the award. *With Christine Avendaño*

Prelate tells cops to go straight

POLICEMEN RECENTLY got an earful from the president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, who as good as suggested that this particular flock tended to go astray and needed to be guided in the right direction.

In a "sermon" posted on his website on Wednesday, Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo urged members of the Philippine National Police to adhere to "seven pairs" in performing their duty as protectors of peace and public welfare.

"The combination of wealth and work, pleasure and conscience, knowledge and character, business and morality, science and humanity, religion and sacrifice, politics and principles—keep the pairs together," Lagdameo said.

"The first in the enumeration must not be without the other. In the way to peace, personal, community-wide or national, the truth of one must be guided by the truth of the other."

Renewal

In talking with the policemen, Lagdameo was making the rounds of key sectors in an effort to rally them behind the CBCP's battle cry: The renewal of public life through moral values.

Lagdameo warned police officers against "living a life of double identity." He said: "For the protectors of peace, there is always the struggle to maintain consistency in the truth of our identity both in our public life and in our private life. As we search for the truth and integrity in our leaders today, we have to strive to be credible prophets as well."

The prelate also asked policemen to develop the character that enabled them to "face and accept the truth that we made a mistake."

Decisions, choices

"There are times in the service when we thought we had made the best decision, because the matter was thoroughly analyzed, but later it was found out that it was not correct," he said. "Character is the capacity to face the truth regarding the consequences of the choices that one has made in life."

The prelate also called on members of the PNP to be transparent in their dealings.

"People get into trouble when elements in the transaction are covert, hidden, secret," he said. "When they keep hidden agendas and they rationalize even the wrong or immoral activities, when it is business without moral values, it will soon be bad economics or bad politics. Morality in business leads to trust, confidence and transparency."

In serving the people, police would have to make sacrifices, which is a basic truth in a "genuine religion," he said. *Christian V. Esguerra*

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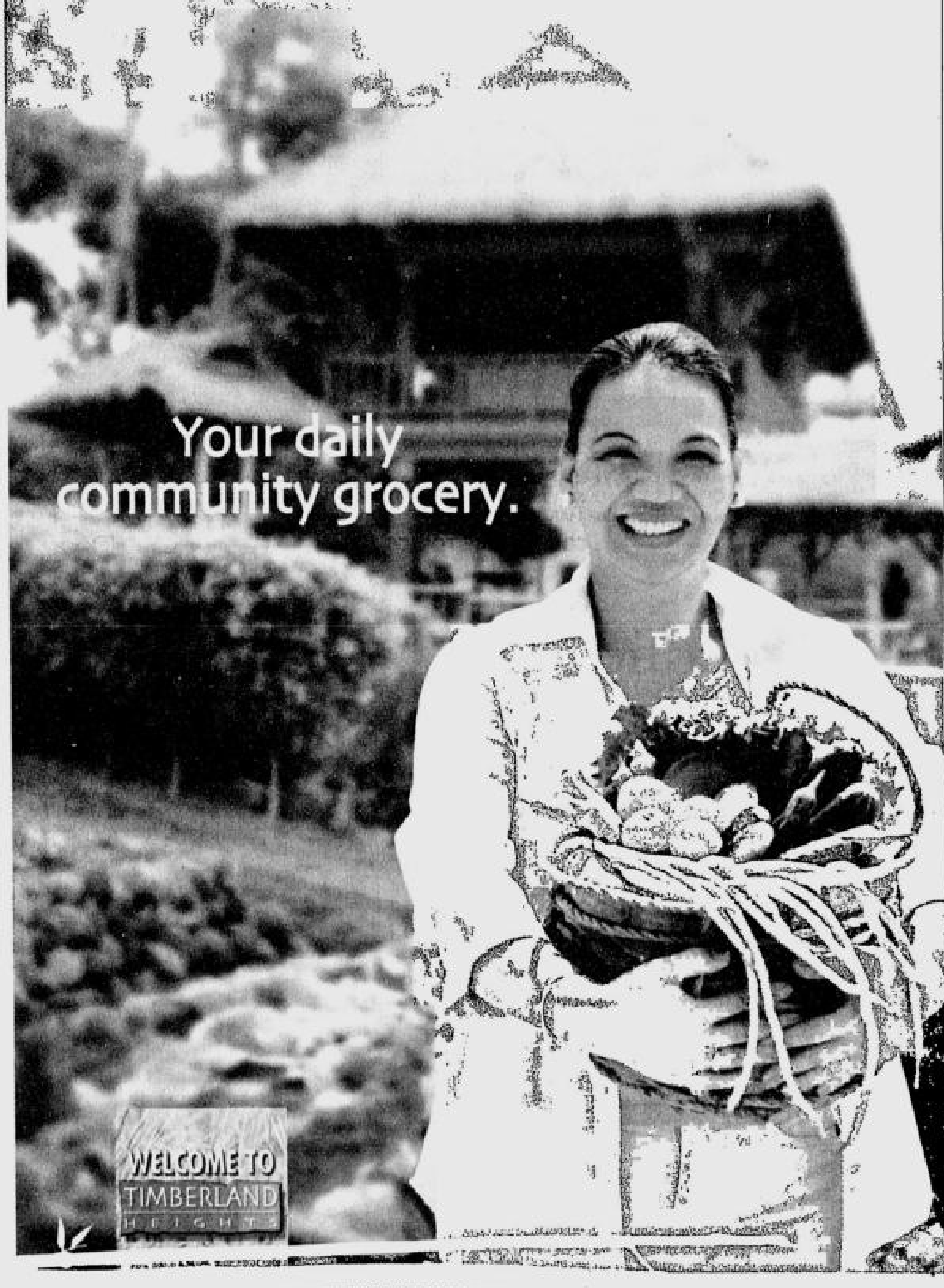

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Erap's admission final nail in coffin, say solons

By Michael Lim Ubac
and Juliet labog-javellana

FORMER PRESIDENT JOSEPH ESTRADA's admission in court that he signed bank documents as Jose Velarde in 2000 was a legal blunder that sealed his fate, Congress leaders said yesterday.

"It was the final nail in his legal coffin that he ironically hammered down himself," said House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles.

He said Estrada had no choice but to make the admission in light of the earlier testimony of bank officials that he had signed the documents as Jose Velarde. In effect, Estrada upheld the testimony of Equitable-PCI Bank executive Clarissa Ocampo, which was supported by bank lawyer Manuel Curato.

'Internal arrangement'

Testifying in his own defense on Wednesday, Estrada admitted that he had signed the bank documents as Jose Velarde but denied he owned the account. He said the real owner was his friend, Jaime Dichaves, with whom he had an "internal arrangement."

"His reason for doing so is shallow and unbelievable, and it escapes human logic. It's the case of his hand being caught inside the cookie jar," said Nograles, who belonged to the House minority during Estrada's short-lived presidency.

House Minority Leader Francis Escudero had a different view.

"At least he (Estrada) is answering and facing the charges leveled against him, not like you-know-who," Escudero said, apparently referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo whom the opposition tried but failed to impeach last year.

'Lie till you die'

"Lie, lie till you die," Sen. Joker Arroyo replied, chuckling, when asked to comment on Estrada's testimony.

"President Estrada just did a Bunye," he said, referring to Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye who tried to dispel election fraud charges against President Arroyo last year by releasing two copies—one supposedly genuine and the other allegedly doctored—of the "Hello Garci" tape.

Arroyo declined to comment further. He was one of the House prosecutors who presented Clarissa Ocampo at Estrada's aborted impeachment trial in the Senate in 2000.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who presided over the trial with then Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., said Estrada's admission was "nothing new."

He said Estrada was merely denying that the P3.2 billion in the Velarde account was his.

'Connect the dots'

"He still has to connect the dots that [should show], in spite of his signing (as Velarde), that he has no culpability as far as public money is concerned. That is the gist of his (defense) but that has to be established very well," Pimentel said.

Rep. Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur said Estrada's explanation that he signed only as a guarantor "invited more questions which could complicate his legal woes."

Cagas said if it was a personal loan of businessman William Gatchalian that Estrada was supposedly guaranteeing, then he should have just directed his two cronies to reach an understanding and some form of legal arrangement.

"The prosecution has alleged that Dichaves is Erap's fall guy to claim the controversial account, or just a dummy used to open an account where large sums of money could be deposited without a hint of Erap's ownership. The Velarde account contained deposits of huge amounts from God knows where," said Cagas.

MARK Jimenez is hailed by supporters and PEP coalition members in Makati yesterday after he paid their bail and promised to help them with tuition payments.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Mark Jimenez rides to rescue of pre-need firm plan holders

By Tarra V.Quismundo

CONTROVERSIAL BUSINESSMAN MARK Jimenez was hailed as a hero as he emerged from his black Chevrolet Suburban outside the Makati courts yesterday to donate money to plan holders of the troubled Pacific Plans Inc.

To the cheers and applause of some 300 white-clad supporters, Jimenez gave a total of P20.4 million to the PPI plan holders who had organized themselves into the Parents Enabling Parents (PEP) Coalition to pursue their claims against the Yuchengco Group-owned pre-need firm.

PEP's fight for full restitution of their educational plans led to 13 libel charges being filed against 16 of its leaders by PPI officials. The cases are pending before nine courts in Makati.

Jimenez also gave P30,000 to 10 PEP leaders who had posted P55,000 bail before the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 139 for one of the libel charges.

2 checks

He showed reporters two checks for P10 million each and a separate check for P340,000 which he was giving the PEP leaders to refund the bail bond they had posted last week in Makati RTC Branch 57 for two libel charges.

Jimenez has promised to give P25 million each to PPI plan holders and to subscribers of another failed pre-need firm, the College Assurance Plan, to help the beneficiaries of these failed education plans enroll this school year.

PPI has declared that it can no longer fulfill its obligation to holders of its education plans because of the steep rise in tuition. Its petition for rehabilitation was granted by a Makati court.

CAP, the country's biggest pre-need firm with 780,000 plan holders, has suspended tuition payments and is asking for court approval of a rehabilitation plan.

"I think what's happening here is unjust. It is stealing from parents who saved money to invest in the future of their children," said Jimenez, a former adviser of deposed President Joseph Estrada who was jailed for two years and three months in the US for tax fraud and making illegal campaign contributions.

Jimenez reiterated that politics had nothing to do with his decision to help, saying "politics is what destroyed our nation."

PEP leaders thanked Jimenez for the generous donation.

"I would like to thank him for helping us.... With regard [to his] motive, I cannot judge the fellow. He emerged and said he wants to help... Why should I say no? I will accept it," said the coalition president Philip Piccio.

Piccio said the group planned to establish a foundation to distribute Jimenez's donation.

P50-million donation

PPI president Alfredo J. Non welcomed Jimenez's promise to donate P50 million to plan holders of various distressed pre-need companies.

At the same time, he said, it is not true that leaders of the small minority did not receive their past tuition support from PPI.

He said PPI records showed that Piccio, who speaks for the PEP coalition, received P30,391.30 in May 2005. For 2006-2010, he would be getting, based on the formula of the rehabilitation court, an additional P91,692.70 for a total of P122,624.00 or a 286% return on investment (ROI) from his premium payment of P42,900, Non said.

Non said that Wenina Bonifacio, another PEP spokesperson, received last May the amounts of P35,866.67 and P33,432.70 for her Plans. Since 2003, she had received P200,985.29 and P66,865.40 for those two plans, he said.

He said, Alfredo de la Cruz, a PEP member who said he didn't get anything, received in 2003 and 2004 a total of P140,028. In May 2005, he received as tuition support P70,014, which exceeded his entitlement under the rehabilitation plan.

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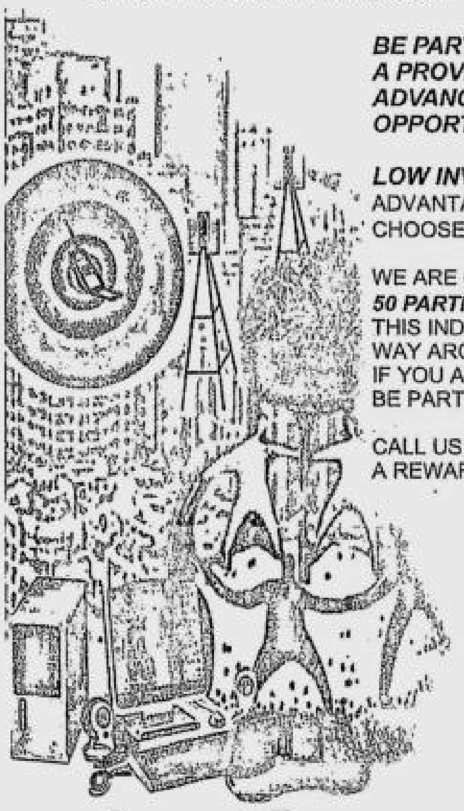

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Lawmakers want Marcos deal probed

SAYING THE ADMINISTRATION HAD YET TO explain its "anomalous" use of Marcos funds during the 2004 elections, militant lawmakers yesterday called for an investigation of the government's impending compromise with the family of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo and five other militant lawmakers filed House Resolution No. 1264 in Congress seeking an inquiry into the alleged compromise between the Presidential Commission on Good Government (PCGG) and former First Lady Imelda Marcos.

Ocampo and Representatives Teodoro Casiño, Joel Virador, Crispin Beltran, Rafael Mariano and Liza Maza insisted the government could not drop the criminal charges against the Marcoses as part of a compromise deal.

"Mrs. Marcos still faces numerous graft cases in local courts, but no Marcos family member or any of their associates has ever been convicted or jailed for corruption," they said in the resolution.

"Compromise agreements between the PCGG and the Marcoses, based on the condition that criminal charges be dropped, abet the continued victimization of the victims of Marcos human rights violations and steal from Filipino martyrs the justice that they have so heroically fought for," they added.

The lawmakers noted that the House Oversight Committee in April and August 2005 failed to resolve how and why more than P6 billion worth of recovered Marcos funds were released in the run-up to the May 2004 elections and for the vote count thereafter.

They added that around P100 million of the Marcos funds were also released for the government's controversial fertilizer fund, some of which ended up in cities with no farms, when the law requires that the funds would be used only for land reform.

They said the PCGG "cannot preempt the courts" and could only compromise the civil "and not the criminal aspect" of the cases against the Marcoses. *Philip C. Tubeza*

PCGG eyes deal with Lucio Tan

AFTER THE MARCOSES, THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government now plans to enter into a compromise with taipan Lucio Tan.

Although the cigarette and beverage tycoon had spurned the offer, the PCGG remained hopeful it would be able to forge an agreement with the taipan.

Ricardo Abcede, PCGG commissioner for assets and management, who has come under fire for trying to forge a settlement with the Marcoses, said he was confident Tan would follow suit.

Tan had earlier said he would not seek a deal with the PCGG on cases involving four companies suspected to have been acquired using ill-gotten wealth.

However, Abcede said they would still try to "reach out" to Tan and find acceptable terms for both parties.

"Of course if offers are unreasonable and the demand the other party is also unreasonable they will fight it out. The thing to do there is to find something that would be acceptable to both parties because if you are too greedy, nothing will come out of the negotiations," he said.

The Sandiganbayan had earlier nullified the sequestration of Tan's companies: Allied Banking Corp., Foremost Farms Inc., Fortune Tobacco and Shareholdings Inc. The last company holds the majority shares in Fortune Tobacco Corp., Asia Brewery, Grandspan Development Corp., Silangan Holdings, Dominium Realty and Construction Corp. and Himmel Industries Inc.

The PCGG, under then-chair Jovito Salonga, alleged that Tan and the other owners of these firms were "dummies" of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and his family.
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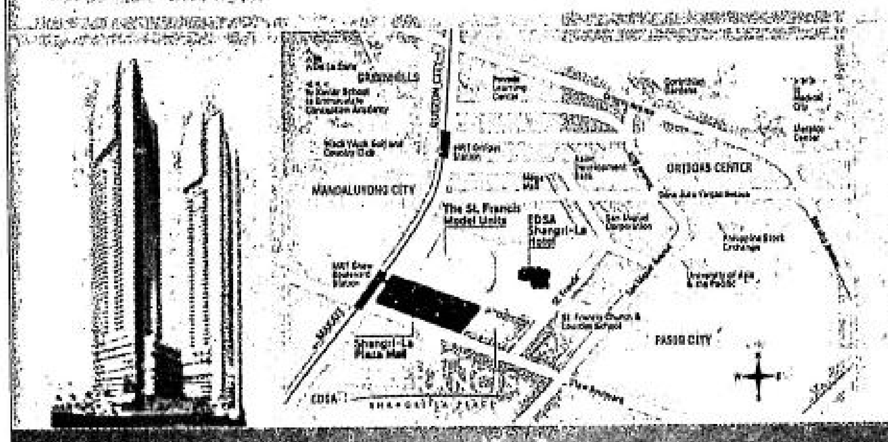

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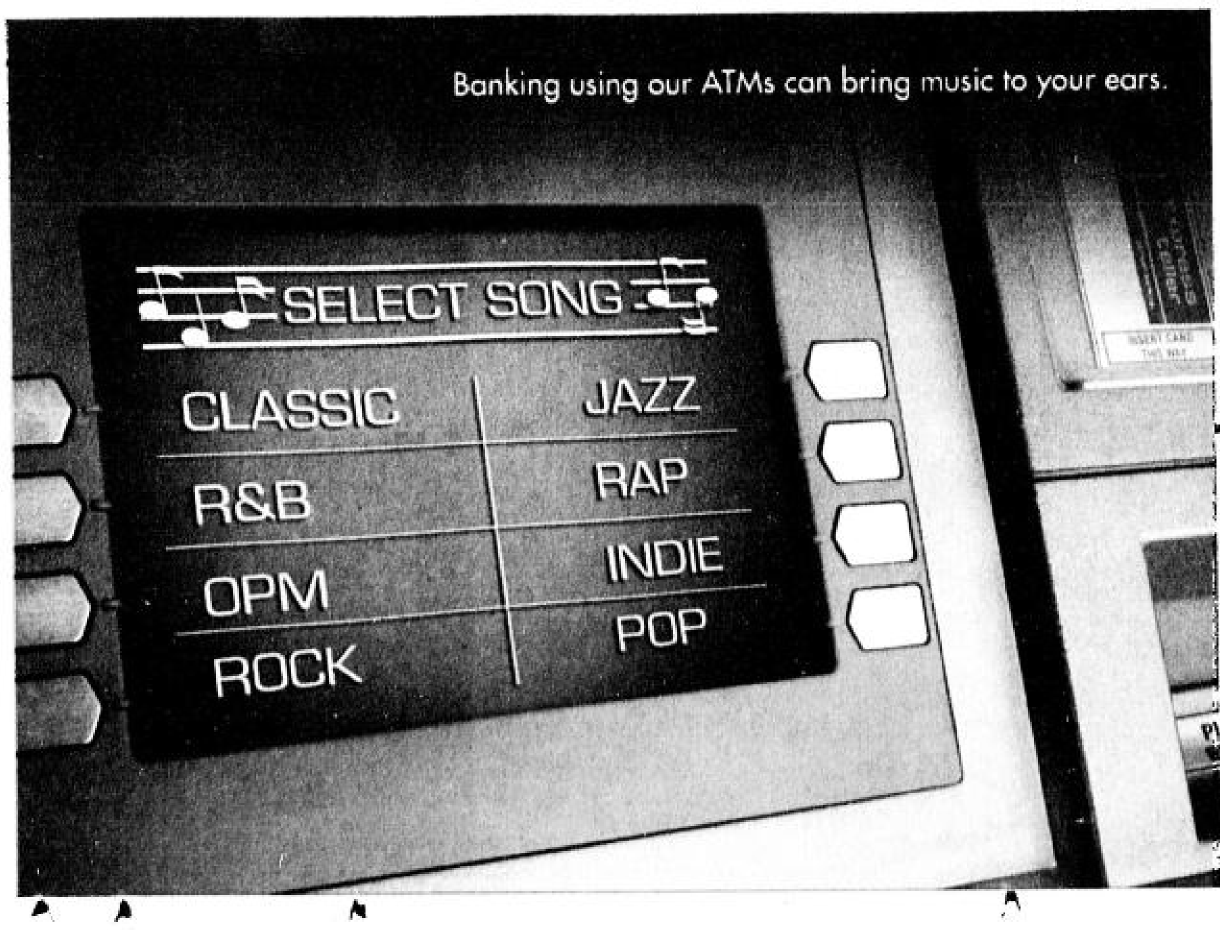

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'Erap 5' freed on DOJ order

From page A1

Monday in Quezon City by military and police intelligence agents in plain clothes. The military denied having them in custody, only to admit it 48 hours later.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita was denying government involvement in the five men's disappearance as late as two hours before the military's admission.

Gonzalez said he had issued the release order to give Dionisio and company time to consult with their lawyers and to face a preliminary investigation.

"We are planning to be careful here," he said. "The onus is already against us. We are already being attacked" for the Department of Justice's handling of the rebellion case against the militant party-list lawmakers known as the "Batasan 5."

"We are not always going for broke; we also go by the evidence," Gonzalez said.

He made clear, however, that the five men were not yet off the hook.

Gonzalez said that if probable cause were established during the preliminary investigation, the DOJ would take them to court.

'In the interest of justice'

Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco, head of the DOJ's Task Force Rebellion, also ordered the release of Dionisio and company, "unless there are other pending charges in court or standing warrants of arrest against them."

Velasco said that "in the interest of justice," he had likewise ordered a "regular preliminary investigation."

The preliminary hearing is scheduled on June 2.

Arrest target

Gonzalez said Dionisio, suspected of connections with the communist New People's Army, was not actually caught discussing the alleged kill plot with his cohorts.

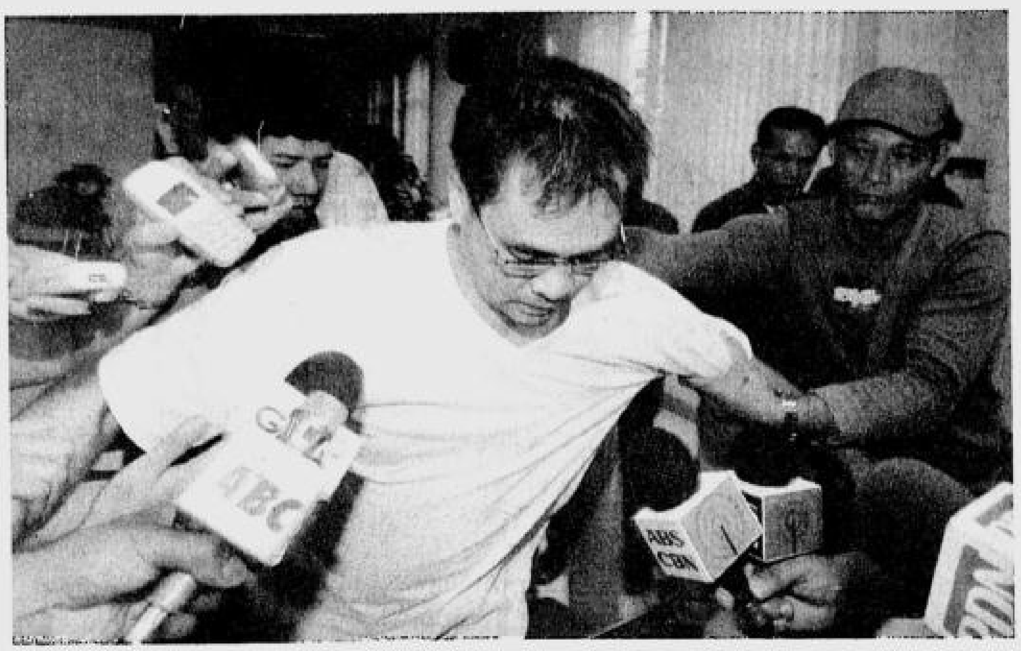
He said Dionisio was the actual target of the arrest, having been tagged by Delfin de Guzman, a supposed former NPA hit man, as the one sent out to kill President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Gonzalez said that "when Dionisio was being pursued by soldiers, he entered the house of Eustaquio" on Kamuning Street in Quezon City.

He said it had yet to be established what Eustaquio and the others were doing there at the time.

Thus, Gonzalez said, the evidence was "too circumstantial."

"The law says circumstantial evidence may be sufficient to convict, but there must be more than one circumstance," he said, adding that the arresting officers had yet to prove that the five men were actually engaged in the assassination plot.



A SOLDIER in plain clothes pulls detained Estrada supporter, Virgilio Eustaquio, away from a journalist during his appearance before the state prosecutor in Manila on Thursday. AFP

Two ranking administration lawmakers saw nothing wrong in the arrest of Dionisio and the others.

Lakas Representatives Antonio Cuenco (Cebu City) and Edwin Uy (Isabela), chairs of the House committees on foreign affairs and on bases conversion and development, respectively, said the arrests were justified because of the alleged involvement of the five men in the assassination plot.

Cuenco and Uy dismissed comments that the arrests were politically motivated, saying that the five men's claim of torture was "a perennial complaint of arrested suspects." *(See story on Page A1.)*

In Cuenco's estimation, Dionisio et al. would not have been arrested "without basis."

"Our armed forces don't do any arrest whimsically," he said.

Cuenco said that the military had received intelligence reports on the kill plot, and that it therefore "needed to decisively act before it was too late."

Uy said the five men were arrested not because they were Estrada supporters.

"It's a different matter when they plan to kill government officials for political ends," he said.

Uy said that while the five men could file countercharges in court against the arresting officers, "it is imperative for them to face the rebellion charges."

"The Armed Forces did what it should in the face of an assassination plot against Cabinet officials. Its duty to protect the state and the government is enshrined in the Constitution," he said.

'Growing fascism'

But a member of the Batasan 5 said Congress should immediately investigate the "Gestapo-like" arrest and alleged torture of the five men.

"Despite howling public opinion against the escalating abuses of human rights, both here and abroad, Ms Arroyo and her fascist minions seem unfazed," said Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano.

"Ms Arroyo's 'no letup' policy of trampling on the Filipino people's fundamental rights and civil liberties is not a sign of strength. This growing fascism is symptomatic of a politically dying regime," he said.

Mariano said he would file a resolution calling on the House committee on human rights to conduct an inquiry into the incident. *With a report from Philip C. Tubeza*

IN THE KNOW

Bill of rights

THE BILL OF RIGHTS IN THE 1987 Constitution guarantees the "inviolability" of the people's right against unreasonable searches and arrests. It says that arrest warrants should be issued only when probable cause has been established.

When issued, a warrant should be executed within 10 days from its receipt by the enforcing department.

According to Rule 113 of the 2000 Revised Rules of Criminal Procedure, "No violence or unnecessary force shall be used in making an arrest. The person arrested shall not be subject to a greater restraint than is necessary for his detention."

The arrested person should then be brought immediately to the nearest police station or jail.

But an arrest can be legal even without a warrant. Even a private person can arrest somebody when:

- the latter committed or attempted to commit a crime in the former's presence
- immediately after the offense has been committed, there is probable cause to believe the latter has committed it
- the latter is a prisoner who has escaped

The Supreme Court has ruled that a person suspected of committing rebellion can also be arrested without a warrant because rebellion is a continuing offense.

Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago lectured cops last March saying that "under the doctrine of a continuing crime, anyone could be arrested anywhere, anytime."

According to Philippine National Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel D. Pagdilao Jr., in implementing an arrest warrant, the police must adhere to the following standard operating procedures:

First, the police has to remind the person being arrested of the Miranda Doctrine, which requires that "any person under custodial investigation has the right to remain silent; anything he says can and will be used against him in a court of law; he has the right to talk to an attorney before being questioned and to have his counsel present when being questioned; and if he cannot afford an attorney, one will be provided before any questioning if he so desires."

The next step for the police is to handcuff the person with reasonable force and bring him to the nearest precinct for documentation purposes. The person arrested shall also be attended by a physician for a medical check-up. After this, he will be handed over by the police to the judicial authority that had ordered the arrest.

The arrested person can be detained from six hours to three days, depending on the gravity of the offense. If the fiscal fails to file charges in court within this time frame, the detainee should be freed. *PDI Research*

'I was tied to ceiling, they were hitting me all over'

From page A1

of suffocating him.

He made a similar claim on Wednesday, when he and his four companions were presented to the media. But Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco immediately denied this.

Dionisio assumed that the alleged torture took place inside Camp Aguinaldo, where he and Virgilio Eustaquio, Jim Lucio Cabauatan, Dennis Ibona and PO3 Jose Justo Curameng were taken after their arrest on Monday.

He claimed that the torture went on the whole night but that throughout his ordeal, he was more worried of what would be done to Eustaquio, who chairs the pro-Estrada Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice.

From Camp Aguinaldo, the five men were brought to the PNP Custodial Center in Camp Crame the other night.

Fractured rib

Elvira Lleva, a sister of Dionisio's, last night said that he was taken yesterday morning to the PNP Hospital because he was complaining of stomach pain.

Quoting PNP doctors, Lleva said her brother suffered a fractured rib and was now afflicted with urinary tract infection.

Dionisio's wrists bore cuts and bruises, apparently the result of tight handcuffs.

"I was tied [and suspended from the ceiling] and they were hitting me all over. There were many of them. They took turns [hitting me]," he said.

Dionisio said that while he could not see his tormentors, he could hear their voices.

He said he had shown his bruises to officials of the Department of Justice, where he and his companions were brought Wednesday for inquest proceedings, but that the officials said nothing.

Asked yesterday to comment on Dionisio's claims, Velasco said the five men were free to sue the police.

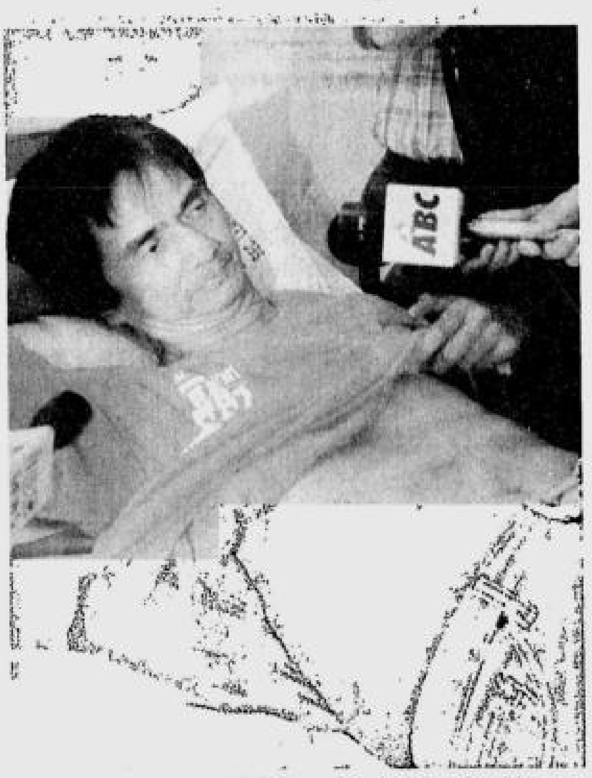
Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, a son of the ousted President, briefly visited the five men yesterday at Camp Crame.

"They don't deserve to be inside. They should be released. There is no case [against them]," the senator said.

Asked why he was tortured, Dionisio said: "So I would admit that Ruben Dionisio is not only Ruben Dionisio the barangay councilman, but also Mike Gumera or Ruben Siamson, the regional chair or secretary of the Metro Rizal Party Committee of the CPP-NPA (Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army).

'Filipinism'

Adela Samson, another sister of Dionisio's, laughed hard and shook her head when asked if it was true that her brother was a communist guerrilla.



SIGNS OF TORTURE: While he was tied, Ruben Dionisio says, his abductors punched him and applied electric shocks to his private parts. At the PNP hospital Thursday morning, he pulls up his shirt to show the bruises on his torso. JOAN BONDOC

She said her brother was a loyalist of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and a supporter of ousted President Estrada.

She added that Ruben had been joining protest activities but was definitely not a communist.

Ruben Dionisio described himself as a nationalist and a follower of "Filipinism," which he said was an alternative to the communist ideology.

Filipinism means that Filipinos should take charge of their country, he said.

"But we believe that this should be defended, not through an armed struggle, but through the mind," he said.

Dionisio also said he had once been a consultant of the Department of Interior and Local Government, where he lectured on values formation.

He said that at the time of their arrest, he and his four companions were discussing ways to develop an economic program so their group could become self-sustaining.

Adela Samson, 70, said the manner of her brother's arrest and his alleged torture were akin to the difficulties that Filipinos faced "at the time of the Japanese occupation" during World War II.

"He told me he was praying while they were hurting him. It's good he knows how to pray," she said.

Samson said the family became worried when her brother did not show up to get his dinner from her home.

She said the family surmised that he and his companions were watching a TV documentary on the controversial movie, "The Da Vinci Code."

Dionisio's kin only learned about who took him from TV reports on Wednesday, Samson said. *With a report from Norman Bordadora*

CHR: Warrantless arrests illegal

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS said members of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces had abused the human rights of Dionisio et al.

Wilhelm Soriano, CHR commissioner for the National Capital Region, told the INQUIRER that the commission would formally recommend criminal and administrative charges against members of the Isafp's MIG 15.

"We will no longer conduct a public hearing. The information that we have gathered shows that the human rights of the victims were violated," he said.

Soriano said the CHR field investigation showed that 12-15 heavily armed men barged into Eustaquio's house at around 3 p.m. on Monday and forcibly took Dionisio and company without identifying themselves as persons in authority.

The men did not show warrants to justify their actions, he said, adding that there was a clear case of illegal arrest, arbitrary detention and trespassing.

"From a human rights perspective and according to the Bill of Rights *(See box above)*, it's very clear that no person can be deprived of liberty without due process. It is clear that these were warrantless arrests and there was arbitrary detention," Soriano said.

That the Isafp initially denied having custody of the five before admitting that they had indeed been arrested by intelligence agents made the violation worse, he said.

"[Their attempt] to legitimize what they had done through inquest proceedings will not correct the wrong that they have done," he added.

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BIR claims collections up 19 percent

TOTAL COLLECTIONS OF THE BUREAU OF Internal Revenue in the first four months of this year reached P206.32 billion, up by 19 percent or P33 billion over the same period last year.

The latest data forwarded by the field offices to BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag showed that tax collections from January to April were only 1.73 percent short of the target for the period.

Income tax collections for the same period rose by 12.45 percent or P13.22 billion to P119.43 billion as against P106.21 billion last year.

Value-added taxes collected surged by 60.50 percent or P16.31 billion to P43.27 billion, exceeding the goal by seven percent.

Percentage taxes reached P13.31 billion, higher by P800 million, or 6.39 percent, also exceeding the goal by 4.23 percent.

Excise tax collections, however, declined by 6.39 percent to P18.55 billion during the period, but still exceeded the P17.7 billion target by 1.48 percent. Only income taxes fell below target at 91.36 percent.

Buñag said the latest figures should silence critics of the BIR who had sought his ouster after collections in April reportedly fell below target.

The BIR's improving collections as data from the field offices started coming in, have prompted members of the Senate and House of Representatives to express support for Buñag.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile, the Senate's tax expert, said that Buñag should be allowed to prove himself for a longer period than just one month.

"Collection performance should be based on the actual collections for one year as opposed to the annual collection goal," said Enrile. "Otherwise we will have a tax administration policy that is unstable and unrealistic."

Malacañang Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said there was a need to give Buñag a longer period to prove the capability of BIR to meet its tax goals, adding that in general, the BIR has shown effectiveness in its collection performance. *Cynthia D. Balana*

'How much do rich really pay in taxes?'

TO ENSURE THAT THE RICH AND BIG CORporations paid the right taxes, a lawmaker yesterday proposed that their income tax payments be made public.

Negros Oriental Rep. Herminio Teves pushed for the passage of House Bill No. 2404 or the Transparency Bill which would remove the secrecy and confidentiality provision in the Tax Code to ensure "transparency" in the tax payments of the rich.

"The main reason we cannot optimize our revenue collection, hence we experience huge shortfalls and other deficiencies in the payment of individual and corporate income tax, is the provision in our Tax Code on secrecy and confidentiality," Teves said.

Teves, the father of Finance Secretary Margarito Teves, said that passing the bill would also prove that congressmen were "consciously complying" with their tax obligations.

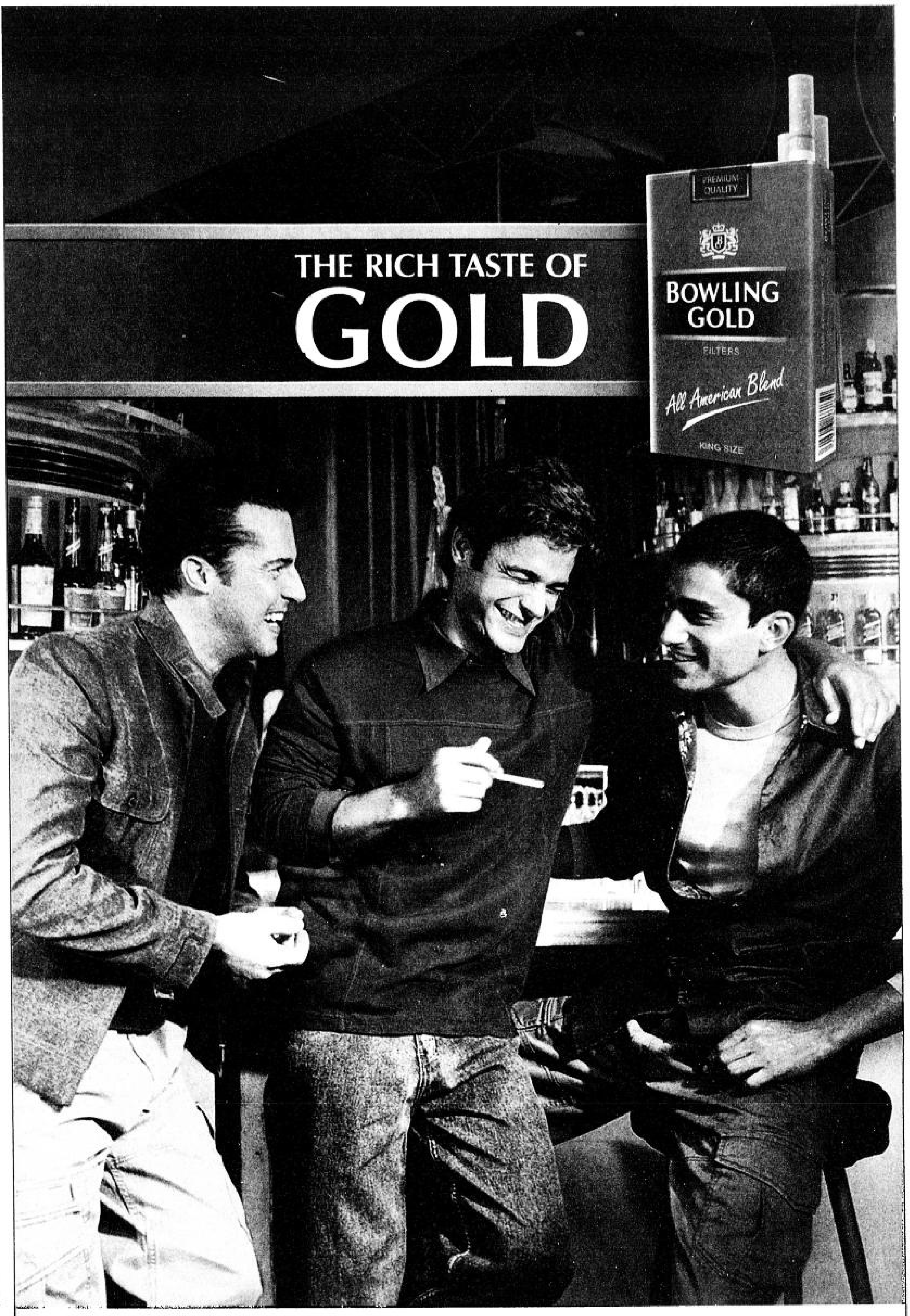
The bill has already passed the House committee level but has yet to be deliberated on in plenary.

Teves downplayed objections that making tax records public would expose the rich to kidnapping and harassment, saying their lifestyles already betray their affluence.

"Their wealth is very evident just by looking at their multimillion-peso houses, expensive cars, the education of their children in exclusive schools and their membership in exclusive clubs," he said.

"In short, merely publishing tax payments does not make a wealthy person susceptible to kidnapping or robbery."

"It is funny that public officials are mandated to submit their wealth or net assets for public scrutiny, but are not asked to make public their tax payments. Love of country is best manifested in the amount of tax you pay our government," Teves said. *Philip C. Tubeza*



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Batul: Bachelor, breadwinner, broadcaster

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BATUL: Family man

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—TO make both ends meet, local broadcaster Fernando "Dong" Batul sold printed T-shirts and calendars. He had also just started selling cell phone loads.

He knew that the media profession brought no big financial rewards and that to be credible, he had to make no compromises. For him, there was no better calling than journalism, but his popularity brought him more danger.

On Monday, at around 6:35 a.m., Batul was felled by 12 bullets that hit him in the face, chest, back and side. The assailants, wielding .45-cal. and 9-mm pistols and riding on a motorcycle, had only one clear instruction—get him dead—while he was on his way to work at the dyPR radio station on Valencia Street here.

The broadcaster had always told his mother Condrada and other siblings that he wouldn't get married because he didn't want to leave them. When his father died two years ago, Batul assumed the role of family head although he was the youngest in the brood. His parents had sold groceries, plastic bags and other products in the public market.

37th birthday

"We should have asked him not to go to work that day," his sister Letty said. She said her brother had planned to go to Baguio City for a vacation with their mother on May 24, his 37th birthday.

"He told me we were going to Baguio after the wedding of my granddaughter on May 27 in Manila. He told me he would buy our plane tickets," Condrada said.

Between sobs, she recalled how good her son was, but "he was sometimes hardheaded when we told him to stop working as a commentator."

Grenade attack

Batul did not seem to take seriously his mother and siblings' request to stop being a journalist. On April 24, two grenades were thrown at their house but did not explode.

"I was afraid for his life and, at the same time, angry at him after that incident because it was serious. I was just thankful to God that the grenades didn't go off," his mother said.

Batul's eldest brother Wilfredo, a seafarer, had sent him an engaging e-mail and told him he would just give him seed money to start a small business.

"Wake up, brother. Share with me this saying that 'I'd rather be a living coward rather than a dead hero.' There are a lot of ways to prove that we are not really cowards," the message read.

Wilfredo said the cause his brother was fighting for was a dead one. "After all, a lone soldier can never defeat an army and the war you are fighting for is the cancer of the society which is incurable," he said, adding:

"If you go on with this crusade and enemies succeeded in eliminating you from this world, you might be famous today but soon they will forget you."

That e-mail was supposed to be read by Batul during his last radio program before his vacation and some "soul-searching."

Another elder sister Fe blamed herself. "We should have been firm as a family to stop him from working in the radio station. He could have been alive now," she said.

Enigmatic charisma

Dr. Gerry Ortega, Batul's former boss at the Crocodile Farming Institute in the early 1990s, said they had a long discussion over the phone after the grenade incident. He told him to consider his options because it was too dangerous for him.

Ortega had seen Batul turn from an ordinary young man to a principled and uncompromising journalist.

"Before we hired him at the crocodile farm, he drove a tricycle and even tried to be a mason because there were no available jobs after he graduated from college," he said.

But the youth who used to sell plastic bags in at the public market had a promising future. He had charisma.

When Ortega had a program at dyPR in the 1990s, Batul sat in for him when he was not around. Later, in 1997, Batul hosted a program with another partner on dySP Super Radyo called "Kulog at Kidlat."

Batul attracted many listeners to his nightly program because he showed he was one of them. He was the voice of dissent.

Foundation for poor

He established the Kulog at Kidlat Foundation that helped poor people defray the costs of hospitalization and other emergency needs.

He started to become critical of the city government and other public officials. He guarded against corruption and ill-practices in public service, including the media.

Prodded by his supporters, Batul ran for vice mayor of Puerto Princesa City in 2001 and won. "He ran because he believed that he would help more people if he was in the government," Letty said.

In 2003, a year before the end of his term, he was removed from office because of an electoral protest. "He won the elections fair. He didn't cheat. We didn't have the money," his mother said.

In 2004, Batul again ran for vice mayor but lost to his former opponent Vice Mayor Lucilo Bayron, brother-in-law of Mayor Edward Hagedorn.

After the elections, Batul continued his radio program. In February last year, he took the prime time morning program (6:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.) with a new name "Bastonero." He said the name was fitting for a hard-hitting commentator.

'Can't do without him'

His colleagues at the radio station believed he was killed because he had the guts to tell the truth and expose those who robbed the country and the people.

One listener, who refused to be identified, said: "With Dong's death, Palawan's politics will never be the same again."

Batul's family wished that the "local media hero" were still alive so he could spend time with his old mother and help his siblings. "We can't do without him. We don't know how we can give Dong justice," Fe said.

Palawan cop charged with radioman's slay

From page A1

morning. Batul, a former vice mayor, died two days before his 37th birthday.

PO1 Aaron Golifardo, 38, of the Palawan Provincial Police Office was arrested on Wednesday afternoon at the Philippine National Police headquarters in Camp Crame, Quezon City. The arrest was made by Chief Supt. Delfin Genio, police chief of Mimaropa (Mindoro, Marinduque, Romblon and Palawan.)

Golifardo was flown back in handcuffs to Puerto Princesa City on Thursday and charged with murder in the Regional Trial Court, according to City Prosecutor Carlos Santos.

Santos said four eyewitnesses had identified Golifardo as one of the men who fired at Batul, adding that the accused policeman was driving the motorcycle and that the second still unidentified gunman was riding in the back. A third person served as a lookout, according to witnesses.

"They (witnesses) were positive that it was him (Golifardo)," Santos said. "The motive has not been established, but if there is positive identification, the motive is not necessary."

42nd victim

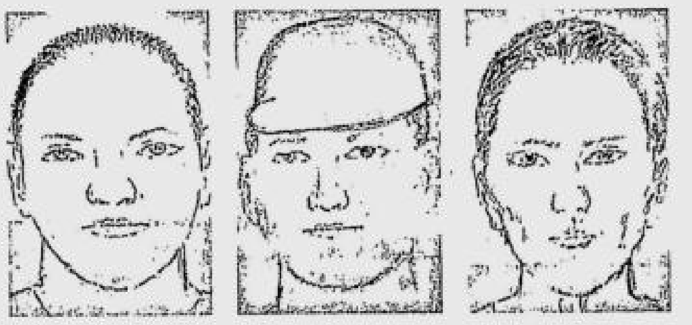
The prosecutor said Golifardo had refused to admit or deny any role in Batul's killing, adding that the policeman kept quiet at his inquest. He said he had recommended no bail for the suspect.

President Macapagal-Arroyo praised the police. A Malacañang statement said Task Force Dong Batul's quick action "shows that there are no sacred cows in the government's fight against criminality, particularly against killers of newsmen and (leftist activists)."

Batul, who had escaped a grenade attack at his home in April, was the 42nd journalist murdered since President Macapagal-Arroyo came to power in 2001 and the 79th since the overthrow of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

Arrested in Crame

Despite government promises to stop the murders and an offer of cash rewards, only three of 79 media murders have been solved by the police in the past 20 years.



POLICE sketches of suspects in the killing of Fernando Batul.

Genio arrested Golifardo inside the office of the PNP Human Resource and Doctrine Development (HRDD) in Camp Crame. Upon learning that Golifardo was a suspect in Batul's killing, Genio talked with the policeman over his mobile phone and learned that he was at PNP headquarters following up on an administrative case.

When Golifardo showed up at the HRDD office to meet him, Genio placed the suspect under his custody and ordered members of the intelligence unit to bring him to the Mimaropa police headquarters in Camp Vicente Lim in Calamba City.

During interrogation, Golifardo denied involvement in the killing but admitted that Batul had chastised him for several days in his radio program for poking his gun at a waitress and customers at a videoke bar in Puerto Princesa.

Inconsistencies

Genio said there were inconsistencies in Golifardo's story. The policeman said he boarded an Air Philippines flight to Manila at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, about four hours after the murder, as a chance passenger. But a plane ticket recovered from Golifardo showed that he booked the flight to Manila on Sunday.

Golifardo's mother, who refused to be interviewed on the air, told a dyPR reporter that her son was at home when the killing happened. She said her son was arranging his clothes and left the house at 9 a.m. that day.

But Genio said several witnesses were shown photographs of various persons and they consistently picked out Golifardo.

Results of paraffin and drug tests on Golifardo would be known in a few days, Genio said.

Asked what could have prompted Golifardo to kill Batul, Genio replied: "You know persons with a criminal tendency like Golifardo tend to act on impulse. When Batul criticized him on radio, he was too hurt. He took it as an affront to his dignity as a person."

Facing dismissal

Batul's sister, Letty, said she hoped the investigation would not end with Golifardo's arrest. Genio said his men would continue to look for the other gunman and the lookout.

A native of Puerto Princesa, Golifardo is a member of the 412nd Police Provincial Mobile Group, a counterinsurgency unit in Palawan.

Golifardo had been implicated in several murder cases in Puerto Princesa City and faced dismissal from the police force before he was linked to the Batul murder. His children had also accused him of failing to give them financial support.

Puerto Princesa Mayor Edward Hagedorn—who had also been criticized by Batul, his former vice mayor, and whom he sued for libel—has offered a P500,000 reward for the capture of the killers.

Yesterday, Hagedorn congratulated Task Force Dong Batul and Genio.

"He has amply demonstrated that when the quest for justice is involved, nobody—not even a fellow policeman—is above the law. And we thank him and the entire PNP for that," he said.

Hagedorn also congratulated lawyer Reynaldo Esmeralda, NBI regional director, for actively participating in the resolution of the case. *With reports from Luigi del Puerto and AP*

Palace sidesteps criticism

From page A1

be productive to find fault, if there is any fault as far as the process is concerned. I think we should move forward and just hear this case," he told reporters at a briefing.

Bunye sought to clarify the apparent miscommunication among government officials on the status of the five men, as illustrated by the AFP's denial of custody only to admit it later.

'Operational matter'

"It's possible that at one point, the person who was asked actually did not have the complete information," he said.

Bunye declined to directly address the claims of the Estrada supporters that they were held without warrants and that they were tortured while in military custody.

"Let the authorities holding them in custody answer these questions. But as a matter of policy, we do not condone any maltreatment of any person under detention. As to the handling of the detainees, it's an operational matter," he said.

But Bunye was clear on one point: "This is a serious matter of criminal justice and the charges have already been filed. If the lives of Cabinet members were indeed at peril in the hands of these men, it is better that they were interdicted before they could cause serious harm to public order. Assassins of any ideological or criminal stripe should be stopped, and this administration is determined to get at the root of these cases as well as other violent plots or slayings."

Bunye, however, said the five men would have their day in court and access to counsel.

"If they are innocent, they can prove their innocence in court," he said.

He justified the arrests by saying that the government could not just wait to act until something bad happens.

"What is important is they have filed their charges—that's the proper procedure. They have access to the media; they are able to present their side. But let's wait for the results of the trial," he said.

'Official cover-up'

At the Senate, Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called for the firing of Col. Tristan Kison, chief of the AFP Public Information Office, for not coming clean on the status of the five Estrada supporters.

"There is an official cover-up of this Gestapo-like arrest which should be condemned, and I wouldn't hesitate to call for the resignation of this ... [AFP] spokesperson who lied to the people. That's a terrible thing," Pimentel said.

Senate President Franklin Drilon called on the Commission on Human Rights and the Office of the Ombudsman to look into the matter.

He condemned "the warrantless arrests and the continuing abuse of authority" by government agents and called for an investigation and the filing of charges by the proper agencies.

Ombudsman, do your job

"Legislative investigations can only do so much. At the end of the day, it would have to be concrete action on the part of constitutional agencies like the [CHR] and the Office of the Ombudsman. I challenge them: Show your independence," he said.

Drilon said that while the Senate had investigated irregularities like the alleged fertilizer scam, "not even a whimper" had come from the Ombudsman.

"We have done our share. Here, you have clearly a matter which needs inquiry by agencies like the CHR and the Ombudsman. Do your job," he said. *With a report from Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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2 jail officers, 3 others charged in lensman's slay

From page A1

be a vendetta killing," Velasco said. He noted that the Sabe family, who lived three houses away from the victim, had accused Orsolino of killing Sabe's brother Frank.

The killing was purportedly preceded by the smearing with blood of the front of the victim's house last year. The tale formed part of the NPD's testimonial evidence.

In her affidavit, Orsolino's wife Maria Elisa reported an incident on May 18, 2005, in which Frank Sabe's wife Giselle was quoted as shouting at the mother of Maria Elisa and warning that they would kill her entire family.

Giselle also allegedly threw stones at Orsolino's house and smeared blood on it.

The Sabes reportedly filed a murder case against Orsolino in connection with the death of Frank Sabe, but this was dismissed this year.

Rivera and Nicolas were reportedly close to Franklin Sabe.

Bataoil said the photos of the suspects were provided by leaders of a volunteer organization called the Guardians League-City Homes based in Dasmariñas, Cavite. They were traced by investigators through a sweatshirt found on the killers' abandoned motorcycle.

Velasco said the suspects would be summoned for preliminary investigation on June 6 at the DOJ.

The chief of the National Capital Regional Police Office yesterday described the alleged involvement of several policemen in the recent killing of journalists as "an aberration and exception."

Director Vidal Querol cited incessant irresponsible news reporting, criticisms, professionalism and vendetta as among the reasons media practitioners were being killed. But he added that no matter what the motives were, the spate of killings must be stopped and the perpetrators brought to justice.

"Violation of ethical standards and personal grudges were pointed to as among the causes why reporters were being killed," Querol told the INQUIRER as a press conference on the progress of the investigation into the Orsolino case was ongoing.

He said his conclusion was based on investigations of previous cases involving some of the murdered reporters.

But in most cases, Querol said, reporters were killed because "they wanted to be muffled by people who did not want to be exposed for their illegal acts."

According to the National Union of Journalists in the Philippines, at least 79 media practitioners have been killed since 1986.

THE WIDOW of murdered photojournalist Albert Orsolino leaves Police Station 10 in Kamuning, Quezon City, where she attended a media briefing on the progress of her husband's case.

RAFFY LERMA

3rd man on Everest Garduce 1st to arrive today

By Nikko Dizon and Leila Salaverria

EXACTLY A WEEK AFTER HE CONQUERED the world's highest mountain peak, Romi Garduce arrives today to share his achievement with his countrymen.

Garduce, at 37 considered the country's most accomplished mountaineer, was one of the Filipino triumvirate who achieved the Philippines' 1-2-3 finish last week in the quest to conquer Mt. Everest.

Leo Oracion, a member of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE), became the first Filipino to reach the summit of Everest on May 17. His teammate, Erwin "Pastor" Emata, followed soon after.

Oracion and Emata, who are both Philippine Coast Guard servicemen, are scheduled to return at the end of the month.

The Philippine conquest of Mt. Everest became a competition between the country's two largest television networks.

Garduce's climb was sponsored by GMA Channel 7 while that of Oracion and Emata was supported by ABS-CBN 2.

Garduce, an information technology manager, is not a member of the FPMEE but of the University of the Philippines Mountaineers. He is also an expert diver and adventure racer.

Philippine Coast Guard officials meanwhile said that the skills that enabled its two members, Oracion and Emata, to reach the world's highest peak will be passed on to PCG personnel who will use these not just to scale mountains but to save lives.

Oracion and Emata, joined the PCG shortly before they flew to Nepal early this year for their "reconnaissance climb" in preparation for the FPMEE attempt to reach the summit of Everest.

Four other FPMEE members also come from the PCG.

PCG spokesperson Lt. Commander Joseph Coyme said the agency began recruiting mountaineers early this year after realizing that their skill in scaling heights and rappelling were vital in search and rescue operations.

"We need climbing and rappelling skills in the Coast Guard for our search and rescue operations. This is why we asked experts to join us, so that they can teach other Coast Guard personnel what they know," Coyme said.

He said the PCG conducts search and rescue in various situations, not just at sea, which is why it needs all kinds of skills.

Coyme said Oracion and Emata will be assigned to the Special Service Office tasked with teaching special skills when they return from Nepal.

He said PCG officials first noticed the need for skilled climbers after the bombing of the SuperFerry 14 in 2004.

Because the ship had tilted and rested on its side after the fire, rescuers could not use the usual pathways to retrieve bodies. PCG men only had ropes to use in making the precarious descent to a deck six stories below them in order to recover the bodies.

"Rappelling skills were important in that instance since our rescue personnel only had ropes to work with," Coyme said.

The Guinsaugon tragedy in Southern Leyte, where an entire village was buried in a massive landslide early this year, also called for mountaineering skills.

PCG personnel helped search through mud and boulders for buried residents in Guinsaugon.

Coyme said Oracion and Emata would be given the rank of Petty Officer 3rd class, which is equivalent to a military sergeant, instead of the rank of private, because of their achievement.

He said that even if the two have yet to begin active duty in the PCG, they have already done a great service to the agency by carrying the name of the PCG when they climbed Mt. Everest.

Troops must also leave housing

A WEEK AFTER forcibly evicting retired top brass, the Philippine Navy yesterday ordered 115 retired Navy and Coast Guard enlisted men to move out of official housing at the Bonifacio Naval Station to make room for active-duty personnel forced to rent homes off-base, officials said yesterday.

Navy spokesperson Capt. Geronimo Malabanan said in a statement that the residents of 115 housing units at the station's Married Enlisted Quarters (MEQ) have been given seven days to move out of the apartments where they had been overstaying for more than a decade.

Malabanan said the MEQ has 225 units for active Navy, Marine and Coast Guard personnel but only 103 were occupied by active soldiers. The rest were occupied by retired soldiers, including seven who had obtained court orders barring their eviction, and presumed widows or relatives of dead ex-soldiers.

The MEQ is adjacent to the Senior Officers Quarters compound where more than 1,000 troops last Saturday evicted 56 retired rear admirals, vice admirals and commodores who had been squatting on the premises for years. Malababan said the officers left P7 million in unpaid water and electricity bills and some vandalized the houses before moving out.

Malabanan said the 115 overstaying enlisted personnel have unpaid electric, water and rental bills amounting to P6,519,005.

Malabanan said 41 senior and junior officers were also being eyed for eviction from the Junior Officers Quarters but had yet to be serviced official notices. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan, with a report from AFP*

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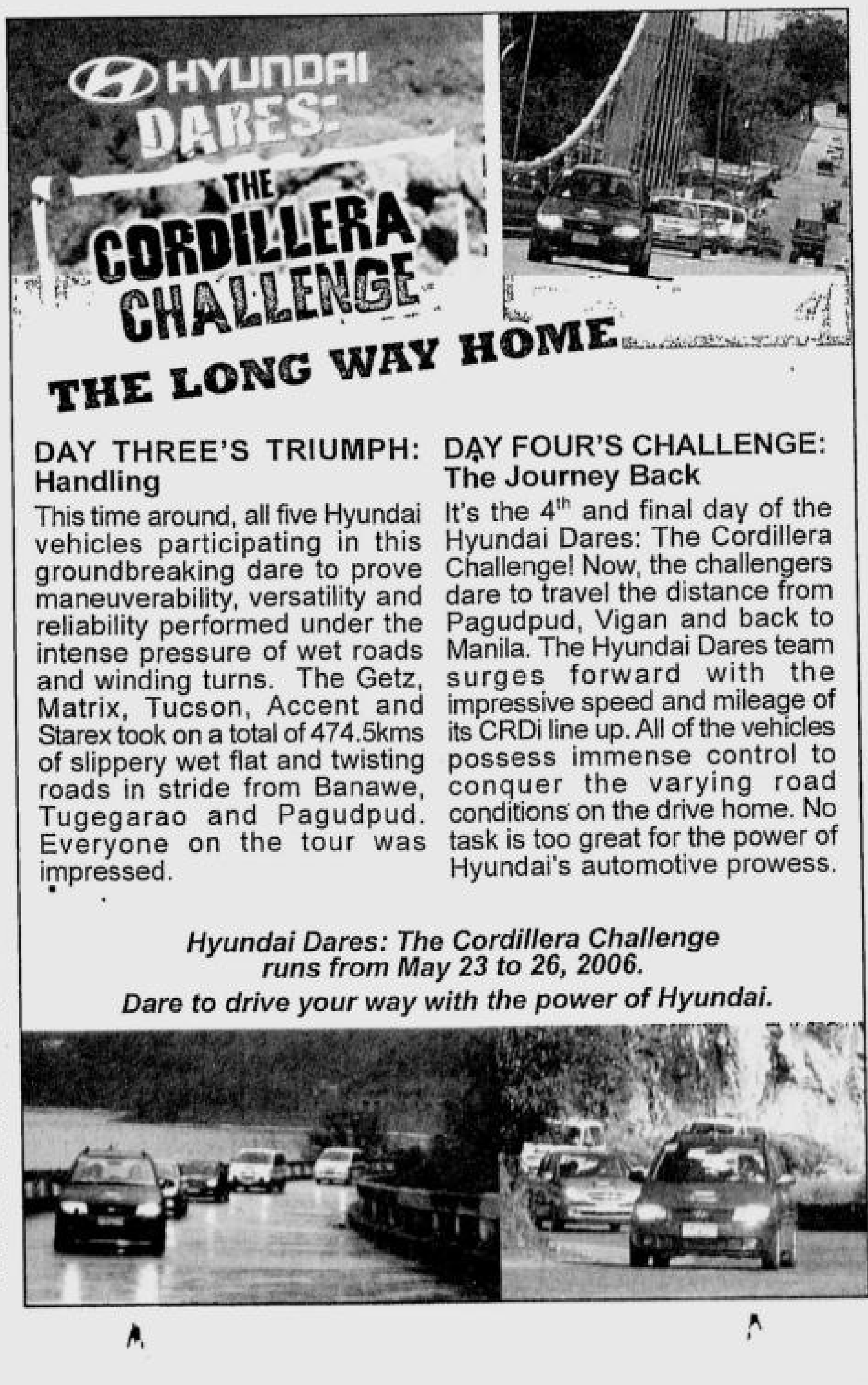
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Delicate balancing act: Gov't verdict on Lafayette

From page A1

people's livelihood and protecting the environment.

In a 169-page report to President Macapagal-Arroyo, a fact-finding commission headed by Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes has recommended the closure of the Australian company's mining operations on Rapu-Rapu Island in Albay and a review of the 1995 Mining Act.

The Bastes Commission also recommended the cancellation of Lafayette's environmental compliance certificate, compensation for victims of a waste spillage in October last year and the filing of charges against some environment officials in Albay.

Malacañang has ruled out a repeal of the mining law due to its economic fallout, boosting hopes of foreign miners that the Arroyo administration will stand by them and their investments here in any face-off not only with Bastes but also with the powerful Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

THE OPEN-PIT gold-silver mine owned by Canada's TVI Pacific sits on top of Mt. Canatuan and is one of only eight new mining operations that have reached the production stage in the country since the passage of the Mining Act in 1995. AFP

The CBCP earlier this year demanded in a pastoral letter that Ms Arroyo impose a nationwide mining ban, claiming that mining was socially divisive and environmentally disastrous.

Splendid work

"We acknowledge the splendid work of the Bastes Commission. The information it gathered was very valuable ... It would be given a lot of weight," Reyes told reporters on the sidelines of the Mindanao Congress of the League of Municipalities in Davao City on Wednesday.

At the same time, however, Reyes said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) would use as reference the result of the dialogue that Lafayette held with Rapu-Rapu residents.

In a turnaround, the municipal council passed on May 8 a resolution calling for the resumption of the polymetallic project on the island subject to Lafayette's compliance with laws on environmental protection and public health.

During a talk with Lafayette officials, Reyes said they informed him the company had poured in at least P400 million for environmental protection.

"We told them to remain steadfast until the department decides on the matter," Reyes said.

Reyes said mining could improve the quality of life of Filipinos but also pose a hazard to the environment and the people's safety.

"To ensure that mining will give peace rather than 'unpeace' to mining areas, operations should be done on a sustainable and responsible basis," he said.

In other countries, Reyes said, mining has become "their bridge to their prosperous future." If the potentials of mining would be fully realized in the Philippines, "it would mean more infrastructure, more markets, more schools, and the quality of life of our people will improve," he said.

Reyes also said while there were laws on mining safety, "our problem is enforcement."

Enormous stakes

The stakes in mining are enormous, with officials estimating the industry could generate export earnings of $5-7 billion annually and create thousands of desperately needed jobs.

"There's a little bit of a pause because of the uncertainty but ultimately the government, we hope, will do the right thing," John Ridsdel, corporate adviser to TVI Pacific of Canada, said at a recent ceremony to top off a tailings dam in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte.

TVI, anxious to ensure that all the powers are mollified, called on the services of a Subanen tribal priest to sacrifice a squealing pig to sanctify the company's mining operations.

With world metal prices running at record levels, there is a frenzy of mining activities in the Philippines, which boasts one of the world's most generous mineral endowments. Mining firms are trying to borrow hundreds of millions of dollars from banks and other sources for some two dozen major projects.

TVI, which is milling 600 tons of gold and silver ore daily two years into its operation, has had the smoothest sailing so far among the eight projects that have reached the production stage.

In contrast, Lafayette has been forced to halt operations on Rapu-Rapu Island, having been hit with fines after a waste spillage last year was blamed by residents and Church officials for fish kills.

The public relations disaster has cost Lafayette's local managers their jobs. With no cash flow and with overhead costs piling up, the firm's creditors are also circling.

Manuel Agcaoili, president of Lafayette's processing unit here, insists the mine has complied with all safeguards but the government is withholding agreement for a test run while it evaluates the results of several independent fact-finding reports.

'Don't punish industry'

Regardless of pronouncements by the Arroyo administration in support of mining, industry officials say the real test of its commitment would be what action it takes on the Rapu-Rapu case.

TO APPEASE THE GODS, members of the Subanen tribe (right) offer the blood of a squealing pig at the top of the tailings dam built by Canada's TVI Pacific at its gold and silver mining operations in Mt. Canataun in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte. The tribe owns the ancestral domain title to the mine site and receives one percent of mining profits. (Above) Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland and Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes hold up gold and silver bullion from the mine. AFP

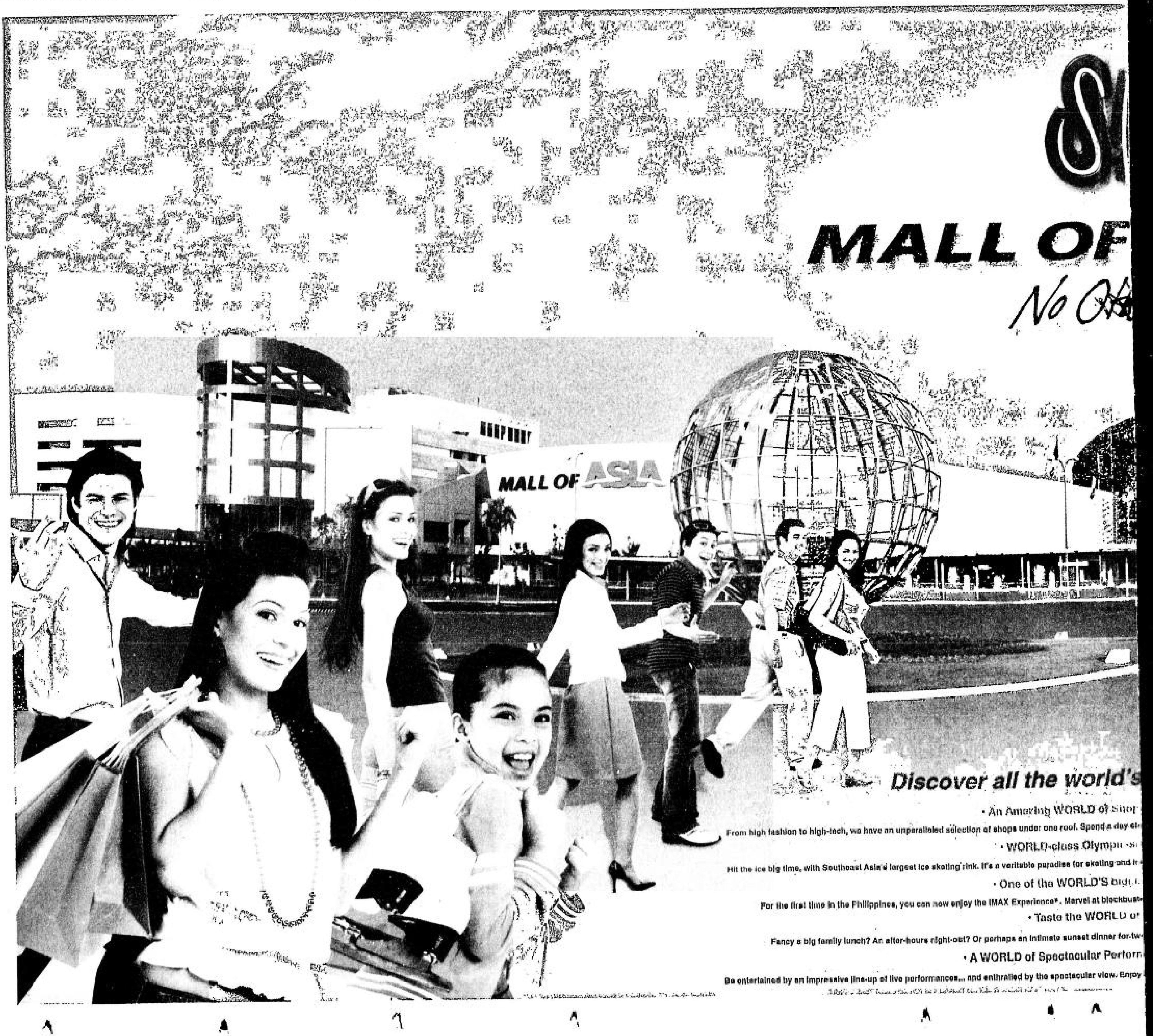
Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye has said "the Arroyo administration is for the full implementation of the Mining Act but always under strict implementation of environmental safeguards."

Chamber of Mines of the Philippines president Benjamin Philip Romualdez urged the government to take "specific actions relative to Rapu-Rapu" instead of punishing the entire industry.

"Individual companies have announced that their activities are moving forward," Romualdez added.

"As long as (investors) know up front what the rules are, then they'll plan their investments accordingly," said Canadian Ambassador to Manila Peter Sutherland, gritting his teeth as he watched the animal sacrifice during the TVI ceremony.

"What they don't want to happen is any major change after they've made their investment," Sutherland added. *With a report from AFP*



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Summer not just fun, games for RP studes

By Nikko Dizon

FOR 50 STUDENTS CHOSEN from various universities nationwide, it was not the usual summer camp of fun and frolic that they know—it was about learning how to live out "democracy" and "human rights" and developing a dedication to civic work that hopefully will last until it's their turn to be at the helm.

After the camp, one of the students said, "This summer camp taught me that the most important thing about democracy and human rights ideas is that they should be put into concrete actions.

"It's not enough that we know what these terms are or what they mean. Also, changes must start with me," added the student.

The testimony comes from the website of the United States Embassy, which recently sponsored a three-module summer camp program aimed at promoting human rights and democracy among young people aged 18-25.

The students learned how to organize and work with nongovernment organizations (NGOs) as part of the "Civic Engagement Module of the Democracy Summer Fest."

In Cebu last week, the students worked for a day with nongovernment organizations, assisting them with their community service projects. Two other summer camps for another 100 students were held in Davao and Los Baños.

"I am involved in a lot of NGOs, but I haven't really been given the background on how I can help or what my role can be. So I saw this as a chance to learn how to further grow NGOs," said participant Cris Evert Lato of the University of the Philippines-Cebu.

The US Embassy said that following the workshops, the students "had a better sense of how to start and maintain an NGO and carry out community service activities."

A group of students even formed their own volunteer organization called "Tabanog," which means "kite" in Cebuano, the embassy added.

"During the camps, instructors from the United States and the Philippines work with participating students to not only learn more about democracy and human rights worldwide, but to explore how they can use their talents, interests and skills—from painting to speech writing to organizing—to further the cause of democracy," the US Embassy said.

The embassy worked with the Commission on Higher Education, the Commission on Human Rights, the Outstanding Student of the Philippines Alumni Community, the National Youth Commission, the International Visitor Program Philippines Alumni Association, and the Cultural Center of the Philippines to plan and organize the summer camps.

STUDENTS from across the Philippines who attended the **US Embassy's Democracy Summer Fest** work on an exercise that develops listening and self-awareness skills, and teaches how movement by one person in a group can affect others. In the course of the workshop, each participant produced an original work that was displayed, read, or performed for a local audience.

Int'l scout jamboree slated in Davao

THE BOY SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES WILL conduct the 2nd BIMP-EAGA Urban Scout Jamboree from May 26 to June 2 at the PTA Grounds in Davao City. BIMP-EAGA stands for Brunei-Indonesia-Malaysia-Philippines—East Asia Growth Area.

More than 5,000 Filipino scouts and scouting and local government officials, representing the 10 scouting regions and 107 local BSP councils in the country will join hundreds of scouts and scouters from the BIMP-EAGA and other scouting organizations in the Asia-Pacific region and from far away as Africa.

With the theme "A Program of Today's Youth for a Better Tomorrow," the jamboree aims to bridge the barriers of cultures, creeds and ideologies and help the participants realize the value of peace and unity among nations and peoples, according to BSP national president Makati Mayor Jejomar C. Binay.

Binay said the jamboree will be a unique experience because instead of the fields and mountains, the scouts will be made to apply their scouting skills in the "urban jungle."

"There will be no creeks, rivers, big mountains, jungles, trees or plants. What we have here is the asphalt jungle where scouts will learn additional skills on urban survival," he said.

He said a highlight would be a training on emergency preparedness where the scouts will be taught how to respond to different situations like fires, explosions, car accidents, typhoons and other disasters that normally occur in a city.

The jamboree is also being backed by the departments of education and the interior, the government of Davao City and thousands of volunteers and sponsors.

With a membership of over two million, the BSP is the largest uniformed youth organization in the country. It marked its 69th year last October. More information on the 2nd BIMP-EAGA may be obtained at www.phiscout.org.

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What is it? The thyroid is a small gland with left and right lobes that look like a butterfly's wings. Small as it is, the thyroid has an enormously important job to do. Thyroid function affects your metabolism, energy level, heart rate, weight control, and more. A routine evaluation of your thyroid hormone levels includes T3, T4, and TSH. These tests are used mainly to diagnose hyperthyroidism (overactive thyroid) and hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid). They may also be used to help evaluate a patient with an enlarged thyroid gland, called a goiter. Diagnosis of thyroid disease is based on symptoms and physical examination. Most thyroid problems can be managed well if properly diagnosed and treated. For more information, consult your doctor.
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OPINION

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Liar, liar

EDITORIAL

DURING THE DICTATORSHIP OF FRANCISCO Franco, visitors wondered why Spaniards seemed free to vent even the most violent expressions of resentment against the "Generalissimo." With typical wry Spanish humor, the answer was: if every Spaniard bad-mouthing Franco were arrested, Spain would be depopulated. The real reason may have been that his secret police were efficient enough to arrest all real threats.

According to the government, five supporters of former President Estrada were arrested because they were planning the assassination of the President, her presidential chief of staff, justice and public works secretaries and national security adviser. Supposedly, firearms and ammunition were in the possession of the five. The circumstances surrounding the arrest of Estrada's supporters were murky, at best.

It didn't help that Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita told the public that there wasn't any arrest. The government, he said, had absolutely nothing to do with (what at that point was) the disappearance—under mysterious circumstances—of the five. "They will always point the blame (sic) against the administration but rest assured that we are not doing it because it would only cause destabilization. Why would we choose those belonging to the opposition, we don't want to do that. The government is always the natural suspect when these things happen," he said.

But two hours after Ermita made his assurances, the military announced that actually, it was its members who had arrested the five. The plainclothesmen that had swooped in and shoved the five into vans were from the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp). The five Erap men were subsequently charged with rebellion, for conspiring to assassinate the President and members of her official family.

Col. Tristan Kison, AFP public information chief, made the announcement. Kison himself had earlier denied that the five men were being held by the military. When their families went looking for them at the Isafp compound in Camp Aguinaldo, the military's general headquarters, the Isafp guards told the relatives the "missing" were not inside. Ermita, informed that Kison was going to make a statement, backpedaled and said, "These are operational matters that you don't expect the Palace to have knowledge of." Perhaps, but then what's Kison's excuse?

Kison suggested that the Isafp chief, Commodore Leonardo Calderon, did not get the report about the arrest made by the MIG (Military Intelligence Group) 15 and the Philippine National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) until Tuesday night. Which possibly excuses his and everyone else's ignorance—but certainly confirms the skepticism of those who have been saying all along that the Isafp was responsible for the arrests.

When, finally, the abducted were presented to the media, a state witness was trotted out, singing the by-now-familiar tune of a leftist-rightist conspiracy, and adding that the assassination list also included Secretaries Leandro Mendoza and Angelo Reyes. Then the five who had been arrested—Virgilio Eustaquio, Ruben Dionisio, Jim Lucio Cabauatan, Dennis Ibuna and PO3 Jose Justo Curameng, members of the Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice (UMDJ)—were themselves presented to media. Dionisio, according to the military, was the main target, for allegedly being a communist (and a self-confessed member of a hit squad). As for the rest—well, they were there; anyway, they were identified as Estrada or FPJ supporters, so they were brought along for the ride.

Dionisio, at the press conference, lifted his shirt to show bruises, and said he was tortured. The official response? State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco said allegations of torture committed by the military are routine. We do not know which is more outrageous: the lack of information shown by Ermita and Kison, or the jaded attitude toward possible human rights abuses displayed by Velasco.

Having conducted warrantless arrests, then denying the arrests; and now, hounded by its official spokesperson's lack of knowledge about the arrests and by allegations of torture, the government made its case, if one exists, that much harder to prove.

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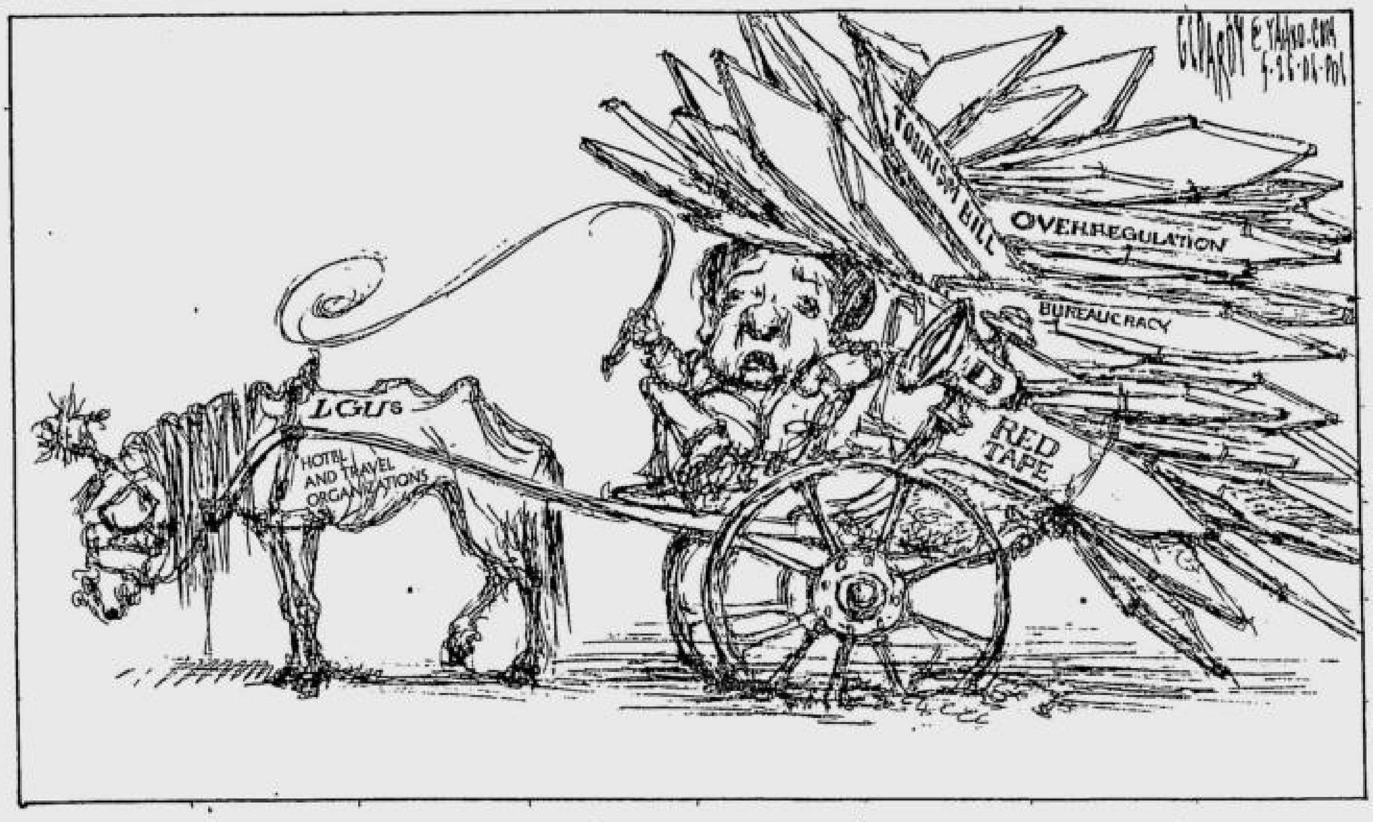

False arguments for MWSS housing project

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

FOR LACK OF CONVINCING ARGUMENTS TO justify a housing project that would pollute the La Mesa Dam and, thus, the drinking water of the 12 million residents of Metro Manila, the people pushing it have resorted to misrepresentations and half-truths. Rep. Edcel Lagman of Albay, the counsel of two labor unions (now disbanded) of the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, delivered a privilege speech at the House of Representatives, defending the project. There, he repeated the arguments he put forward last May 22 during the Kapihan sa Manila. Some of those arguments have already been refuted in my May 24 column.

Among the most glaring misrepresentations is his claim that La Mesa is "neither a watershed nor a protected area." He said "there is no declaration that it is a protected area because it is not a watershed." Yet Lagman's own map of the area labels it as "La Mesa Watershed."

As for La Mesa being a protected area, no formal proclamation is necessary to make it one. The National Integrated Protected Areas System (Nipas) Act declares all watersheds, like La Mesa, protected areas. The absence of a formal proclamation is obviously being used as an argument to take it out of the protection of Nipas, which prohibits any portion of protected areas from being segregated and sold or titled to private individuals.

As for the argument that La Mesa is "not ... a watershed," it brings to mind the saying that "if it quacks like a duck and waddles like a duck, then it must be a duck." La Mesa is the catchment basin of all its surrounding areas. All the rainwater that falls on the slopes of the surrounding hillsides flows down to La Mesa lake, the lowest part of the area. By whatever name you call it, La Mesa is a watershed, with or without a formal proclamation. Common sense.

Lagman also said that "mitigating measures" would be put in place to prevent pollution of the reservoir. But a team of hydraulic experts from the University of the Philippines has reported that no "amount of mitigating measures can prevent the contamination of the reservoir and that it would be better for the site to remain a protected area."

The report precisely puts the lie on that argument. "Mitigate" means "to lessen" and not "to stop" or "prevent." The risk of contamination may be lessened but it cannot be totally prevented. So why risk the health and lives of 12 million Filipinos when the 1,411 MWSS union members—a number of whom are already dead—can still have their housing project in a safe site where it will not endanger the source of Metro Manila's drinking water?

Lagman said the "mitigating measures" with the "most modern technology" would be installed in the project, and he boasted these would cost at least P100 million. Unfortunately, aside from raising the project cost (which will be charged to the beneficiaries), even the most modern technology is no match for the forces of nature. Modern technology is applied in the construction of dams, bridges and earthquake-proof buildings. Yet dams, bridges and buildings still collapse, resulting in the loss of many lives.

Water pollution is a very insidious process. Few people ever notice that the water is already polluted until it is too late. Also, people think that pollution comes only from sewage and they therefore think that if the housing project has a good sewage system, the danger of pollution is addressed.

Wrong. Rain can wash down pollutants from any place upstream, including homes. Lead from batteries thrown in garbage cans or pits and insecticides against termites, cockroaches and other insects can be dissolved in water and washed down into the reservoir.

Heavy metals dissolved in water cannot be filtered out. The filtration plants filter out solids, but not dissolved metals. These metals do immediately show visible effects or signs, but they accumulate in the bodies of whoever drinks the water until he or she is poisoned.

The Minimata Disease of Japan, a very painful disease that paralyzes and contorts the limbs and bodies of patients, was discovered long after mercury had been poisoning the waters around Minimata. The people were not drinking the sea water but they were eating the fish caught in that body of water which was heavily contaminated with mercury. When they discovered the cause of the strange disease, it was too late; many had died in agony and many more had been paralyzed and disfigured, condemned to a future of pain.

When toxins start contaminating La Mesa water, nobody will notice it at first, until people start getting sick. They will look for what is making them sick. By that time, it will be too late.

I think Lagman and the other people behind the housing project should think about this and they should hang photographs of the victims of the Minimata Disease on their walls lest they forget that the same thing can happen to them, their families and millions of fellow Filipinos should they allow greed to get the better of their common sense.

Lagman also claims falsely that "once a judgment becomes final and executory, it is immutable." Yet he admits that in "limited circumstances, the court has the discretion to suspend its execution if subsequent circumstances would warrant."

Expert findings that the housing project will pollute the water in La Mesa Dam, and the passage of the Nipas Act protecting watersheds are "supervening events" that warrant the suspension of the Supreme Court decision on the MWSS housing project. What the court decided on was the legality of the contract between the MWSS and the labor unions. It did not say anything on the safety of the water and the permanent protection of the watershed by operation of law.

Numb and numb-er

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

BOTH AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND Human Rights Commission Chair Purificacion Quisumbing are correct. It is not enough for the Philippine government to just say: No, our guys didn't kill all those communists, journalists and oppositionists. It is not enough for them to say: Go ahead, punk, prove it in court. How can the victims' families run after the suspects, unless the police find and arrest them first?

Malacañang's arguments actually resemble the typical defense resorted to by dictatorships of two decades ago against "enforced disappearances"—what Latin Americans called the *desaparecidos*. Anti-government activists would be abducted and tortured, and the evidence forever erased by the simple cruel expedient of executing the prisoner and hiding the corpse (hence, the Pinoy term, "salvaging"—I suppose, referring to the macabre task of unearthing the corpses).

The activists "were disappeared," to use jargon, precisely so that the government—when the accusing finger points its way—can simply shrug its shoulders. Indeed, Secretary Raul Gonzalez's quip—"You have to be sure what is the reason [for the killing. Maybe it was due to] a drinking spree or because of a woman ..."—was already a stock response by many governments even then.

Yet, in 1989, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights actually held Honduras responsible for the disappearance of a student activist, Manfredo Velasquez Rodriguez, at the National Autonomous University of Honduras. The court relied on exactly the same logic used by Amnesty and Quisumbing: that the abduction (in Honduras)—and the killings (in the Philippines)—fit a historical pattern.

The Court's language was uncanny. "Those disappearances followed a similar pattern, beginning with the kidnapping of the victims by force, often in broad daylight and in public places, by armed men in civilian clothes and disguises, who acted with apparent impunity ... It was public and notorious knowledge ... that the kidnappings were carried out by military personnel or the police, or persons acting under their orders....The disappearances were carried out in a systematic manner [especially considering that the] victims were usually persons whom Honduran officials considered dangerous to State security."

The court said that the state's obligation under the human rights covenants is not just "to respect" human rights but "to ensure [these rights] to all individuals within its territory...." That creates the duty "to organize the governmental apparatus ... so that they are capable of juridically ensuring the free and full enjoyment of human rights."

Significantly, the court contrasted the evidentiary threshold in state responsibility versus that in individual liability. "[T]he violation can be established even if the identity of the individual perpetrator is unknown. What is decisive is whether a [human rights] violation ... has occurred with the support or the acquiescence of the government, or whether the State has allowed the act to take place **without taking measures to prevent it or to punish those responsible.**"

Stated plainly, the charge was not that the government killed Manfredo but that it failed to give him justice. The blame thus cast, the "Who, me?" defense suddenly collapses.

What bothers me about the cold-blooded murder of Fernando "Dong" Batul, fierce critic of local politicos, radio broadcaster and former Puerto Princesa vice mayor, is the privatization of terror and the localization of fear.

Today, even political slaughter has been devolved to private hit men and decentralized to provincial goons. Let the loyal warlords in the provinces do what they must, and find the hoodlums who meet their price. This dovetails Malacañang's style of deciding policy on the basis of the latest behest by either a *padrino* or a political ward, or which momentary need, if answered, will sway the poll surveys.

But what bothers me even more is the lack of outrage, of indignation. Filipinos were up in arms over the spoon-and-fork incident at a Canadian school. (I saw a film clip of that boy—he had his thumb close to the base of his spoon, an absolute no-no if you ask the Pinoy etiquette police!) Many Filipino Catholics were furious at "The Da Vinci Code." (I haven't read the book or seen the movie, but because of you, zealous objectors, I now promise to do both!) We love to speak of the human rights revolution that was Edsa I, yet we remain unmoved by grieving mothers, wives and children we see almost regularly in the headlines.

So it has worked, the strategy of decimating the Philippine Left. Isolate them, remind people of their links to armed strife and of their own killing fields. Cut them down one by one, push them back underground, and then accuse them of having turned their back on peace.

So it has worked, the strategy of going after individual critics, politically significant to attract media attention and project fear, but not too high up like Ninoy lest it spark the next conflagration. It's "kill one, scare 1,000."

So it has worked, the strategy of detaching politics from life. They who are in power tell us to avoid all talk about power: Leave it to us, and just stick to workaday concerns. This triggers off a cycle: politics is drained of substance and is taken over by *trapos*. In their hands, communal politics is then robbed of its soul, we all shun it even more, and the *trapos* have the field all to themselves.

Clever. Far too clever. Heartless schemers, their sharp minds bereft of conscience. To defeat them, we must be shrewd before we can be compassionate. That is our curse: that to win, we risk becoming like the enemy.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

The President's revenge?

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND THE PHILIPpine Commission on Human Rights have in recent days combined their collective weight to denounce the wave of killings in the Philippines that has been rising to unprecedented heights in the past five years.

Breaking its long silence on the killings, the CHR "strongly" condemned "the spate of killings that (has) yet to be resolved and we have noted that there is a perceived pattern of the violation of the human right to life." The CHR emphasized that "if several deaths happened in just a week, these constitute a pattern of impunity."

CHR Chair Purification Quisumbing laid the responsibility for these unabated killings, the main victims of which were leftist activists and journalists, at the doorsteps of the administration. Without mincing words, she said that "In human rights terms, the government is still responsible even if persons in authority are not those behind the killings. The government is still responsible in protecting the right of life and the security of homes and public order and property."

The CHR could not have put it more correctly when it said that the obligation of the government is not only to stop the killings but also "to bring the killers to justice." Quisumbing said that "circumstantial evidence is strong enough to warrant scrutinizing law enforcement officials" and called on the military to "take the lead in looking into a situation that is both scandalous and alarming."

At almost the same time, Amnesty International released its 2006 report, noting the "sharp rise" in the killing of militant activists, and "the climate of impunity" that was shielding the perpetrators. Amnesty did not pull punches when it said that "most of the attacks were carried out by unidentified assailants on motorcycles, at times wearing face masks, who were often described as 'vigilantes' or hired killers allegedly linked to the Armed Forces of the Philippines."

The "pattern of impunity" noted by both the CHR and Amnesty draws a picture of selective killings concentrated on two politically active sectors in the Philippines—the legal Left and the press—and the assassinations have been taking place and rising amid a political crisis rocking the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

It is not a cyclical wave of violent crimes ridiculously dismissed by the Philippine National Police thus: "You know, there is a trend in crime. Sometimes it falls, sometimes it goes up .... a fluctuating thing that follows the sine curve." This is the kind of explanation that provokes citizens to want to rush to the streets to demand the abolition of the PNP and the resignation of the Arroyo administration. It cynically ignores the political pattern of the assassination waves, and tries to exculpate the administration, the military and the police for failing in their responsibility to protect the lives of citizens regardless of "what colors the killers are"—whether or not they are government-sponsored or tolerated death squads.

The Philippines took star billing in the Amnesty report on the state of human rights in 150 countries. "The number of attacks on leftist activists and community workers rose sharply, with at least 66 fatal shootings reported in 2005," said the report. "Those most at risk included members of legal, leftist political parties, including Bayan Muna and Anakpawis, and other human rights and community activists, priests, church workers and lawyers regarded by the authorities as sympathetic to the broader communist movement." The report said the military's labeling of activists in legal organizations as communists was some of the factors in the rise of the number of assassinations, saying that "increased killings in particular provinces were reportedly linked to the public labeling of leftist groups as NPA front organizations by local AFP commanders."

The reports of both the CHR and Amnesty International concerned killings of leftist militants and journalists, and were released in the wake of the assassination this week of Fernando Batul, a radio commentator in Puerto Princesa. Batul's murder brought to 79 the number of journalists killed in the Philippines since the restoration of democracy in 1986. According to the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, Batul was the 42nd journalist killed since 2000, a year before President Arroyo took office, and the 10th this year.

The Paris-based Reporters Sans Frontières has identified the Philippines as the most dangerous country for journalists after Iraq, but this categorization understates the risks under which Filipino journalists work. Most of the violent deaths involving journalists are war-related, part of the so-called "collateral damage" of a war.

According to an independent tally by the INQUIRER, 220 political activists have been killed since Ms Arroyo took office in 2001, mainly from the ranks of the Left's legal political groups.

Both the CHR and Amnesty call attention to an important fact that in the Philippines' current violent crime wave, most of its victims belong to two categories of social groups—journalists and leftist militants who have been highly critical of the Arroyo administration.

Both the press and the militants have been linked by the administration to an alleged conspiracy that led to a coup attempt last Feb. 24, which the government aborted. These sectors felt the brunt of the government crackdown when the President declared a state of national emergency on Feb. 24.

These circumstances have raised at least one important question: whether the indifference of the administration to the alarming wave of the apparently politically related violence is part of the President's vengeance on the press and the Left.

Another kind of marketplace

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

OPENING TODAY AND LASTING UNTIL tomorrow at the Megatrade Hall in Megamall is a different sort of "expo," where the items for "sale" are not furniture or handicraft or even books and garments, but intangibles like ideas, knowledge, inspiration, solutions and that most elusive of commodities—hope.

The event is "Panibagong Paraan," the Second Philippine Development Innovation Marketplace, where 87 finalists in competition for over P50 million in project grants will be presenting their project proposals to jurors, possible partners and the general public.

Sponsored by the World Bank and the Department of Social Welfare and Development, along with 20 organizations from civil society, international partners and the private sector, "Panibagong Paraan" provides a venue for nongovernment organizations, people's organizations, academic institutions and even local governments to showcase planned projects that address the issue of inequity in the Philippines.

Screened by a technical working group from over 900 proposals, the 87 finalists will vie for more than 50 grants of up to P1 million each, which would allow them to implement their ideas for at least a year. The search began last September and ended in December, with the finalists invited to join the exhibit in Manila.

If the 2004 competition is anything to go by, this year's Marketplace should prove to be a lively, enlightening and uplifting event. Comments posted on a message board at the 2004 competition contained such glowing reviews as "this event proves what the Filipino can do ... if politics is out of the picture," and such trenchant messages as "politicians keep out!"

* * *

HOW will the projects address inequity in the country? Among the projects vying for the grants are those seeking economic equity through increasing income and improving income opportunities for poor and marginalized communities, as well as improving access to and control of land and other assets; and those seeking to create a more "level playing field," such as ensuring fairness in market/financial structures/systems and in political/justice systems; and strengthening people's participation in decision-making.

Special categories on advocacy or policy/action research, population and development, clean energy, basic infrastructure and equipment, education and health, and biodiversity, climate change, and international waters were also identified.

"Panibagong Paraan 2006 is an opportunity for us to be inspired, listen, speak and be part of the solution to poverty and inequality," says Joachim von Amsberg, World Bank country director for the Philippines. "It seeks to recognize some of the many inspiring efforts of communities and individuals, whose projects and ideas demonstrate how people can contribute to development."

Social Welfare Secretary Esperanza Cabral says that the overall message of Panibagong Paraan 2006 is anchored on possibility and hope. "It is possible to overcome poverty, if all of us who are working hard to fight it will be given a chance," she adds.

* * *

MEANWHILE, the winners of Panibagong Paraan 2006's "expression of ideas" competition—policy proposal, essay, photography, and slogan contest—will be announced and awarded prizes today at the exhibit area. The public is invited to view the exhibits of project grant finalists and participate in a forum on development with equity. Tomorrow, the public can also participate in "knowledge sharing" sessions, which will discuss finance and capital; technology, research and development, and market linkages; project development; policy advocacy and the use of mass media. The awarding ceremonies for the grant competition will be held tomorrow evening.

In its report, "The Philippines: From Short-Term Growth to Sustained Development (April 2005)," the World Bank noted that inequality of income, assets, and opportunities remains high in the Philippines—the richest 5 percent of households account for nearly a third of the national income, while the poorest 25 percent account for only 6 percent. Consequently, high inequality and modest economic growth have translated into slow progress on poverty reduction in the country.

The report also stressed that addressing equity through improved access to services could help everyone, both the rich and the poor. It explained that better services for the poor would contribute to wider poverty reduction, enable more of the poor to participate in and benefit from economic growth, and address a major source of disaffection among these groups, thereby contributing to greater social stability in the country.

* * *

PANIBAGONG Paraan 2006 is initiated by the World Bank, with DSWD as the lead partner agency. With WB and DSWD are AusAID-PACAP, Peace Equity Access for Community Empowerment Foundation, Inc. (PEF), the United States State Department, Embassy of Japan, The Asia Foundation, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), Philippine Center for Population and Development (PCPD), Mirant Philippines Foundation, Inc., International Finance Corporation (IFC), Asian Development Bank (ADB), Caucus of Development NGO Networks (CODE-NGO), Consuelo Foundation, League of Corporate Foundations (LCF), Makati Business Club (MBC), Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM), and the United Nations Development Programme Global Environment Facility–Small Grants Program (UNDP GEF–SGP), Newsbreak Magazine, Philippine Center for Photojournalism, and Globe Telecom.

The first Panibagong Paraan was held in 2004, awarding grants of around P60 million to 59 projects that sought to make "services work for the poor," the theme of that year's competition.

Public education in Rizal's and Aguinaldo's time

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

WHEN YOU HEAR CHRISTMAS CAROLS blaring from the department store sound system, you know we have reached the "ber" months and that as early as September shoppers are being conditioned to spend for Christmas. Recently I noticed bags, notebooks and ballpens at entrances to department stores. The sight reminded me that June and the opening of school are upon us again. In this day of PowerPoint and whiteboards, I do not have to bother with allergic reaction from chalk dust, and I wonder what classrooms were like in the past, what kind of instruction people received. Was it as bad as portrayed by Rizal in his novels?

Browsing through the five-volume compilation of documents "The Philippine Insurrection Against the United States," by J.R.M. Taylor, in search of detailed material on the budget of the Aguinaldo government, I came across documents on the Department of Public Instruction issued in Malolos in October 1898 for the academic year November 1898-April 1899. There was established a Burgos Institute that offered entrance exam for secondary instruction, and the requirements were proven proficiency in the following areas:

"Arithmetic, ratio and proportions; elements of geometry to a knowledge of volumes; Spanish grammar and orthography, etymological analysis and syntax, writing from dictation, elements of universal geography, with cartographical knowledge."

Once in the Burgos Institute, the following courses were given: Latin Grammar, Universal Geography, especially that of the Philippines; Universal History, and especially that of the Philippines; Spanish literature comprising rhetoric, poetry and classical authors; Arithmetic and Algebra; Geometry and Trigonometry; French, English, Natural History made up of hygiene, zoology, botany, mineralogy, and geology; Physics, Chemistry, Philosophy, Natural Laws."

The course work was very strong on Science and Math—as we still do today—though aside from Spanish and English, the students also took French. Sometimes I wonder whether we should let our students learn another language aside from English. It is also to be noted that at a time when only men went to school, women were admitted to the Burgos Institute subject to the entrance exam and other requirements.

There was also a list of instructions that somehow sounded so familiar to us a century after. For example, due to insufficient or unhealthy school buildings, local government officials were asked to use church or parish houses as classrooms. It was specifically stated that teachers should not live in the schoolhouses. Classes were from 8 to 10:30 a.m. and from 2 to 5 p.m. every day, and teachers were required to be in 30 minutes before classes opened to prepare and watch the arrival of the pupils.

Most interesting was Article 6: "School masters and mistresses who receive a salary from the State, province or town, cannot engage in any industry, trade or occupation which may distract them from fulfilling the duties of their charge; a violation of this provision shall cause them to incur the penalty of suspension of salary for three to six months for the first offense and removal from office for the second."

When we talk of our teachers today being overworked and underpaid and having to take on second or third jobs to make ends meet, we can only wonder whether the Aguinaldo government paid their teachers enough to demand the above.

Then there was the issue of local authorities asking teachers to do other chores. Then as now that was a problem; so in 1898, it was stated that teachers could not receive visits; neither could they be disturbed by any local authority during school hours. Local authorities were also told to make provision in their budgets for teachers, depending on the resources of the town. Then there was Article 12 which provided that "the salaries of school masters and mistresses shall be punctually paid by the local *presidente* the morning of the first day of the month, or if such day will fall on a holiday, the first working day thereafter."

Reading through these stale laws gives one an idea of the importance that was placed on education or public instruction. Depending on the obsessive, compulsive behavior of the secretary of the Department of Fomento (whatever that was), who was Felipe Buencamino at that time, one sees all the rules on dealing with his department, for example:

"Article 10—Any person desiring to secure some service in the offices of the department ... shall apply with politeness and decorum to the watchman whom he shall advise of his wishes. The watchman shall reply to the greeting of the person interested and shall conduct him or indicate to him the room of the official sought. The latter shall receive the person interested immediately and shall dispatch the business if within his jurisdiction, and shall give the person interested all pertinent explanations. If he cannot receive him or dispatch the matter at once, he shall have him wait in the public waiting room or request him to return on another day."

Conducting business with government must have been so complicated that such detailed instructions were drawn up. One wonders if we have similar rubrics today.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Calle Real

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

THERE'S AN EXCELLENT EXHIBIT, "HANDURAWAN," AT the 3rd Floor of SM City in Mandurriao, Iloilo City, running up to May 30. Part of the National Heritage Month celebrations, "Handurawan," which means a glimpse of the past, is actually several exhibits rolled into one, organized by UP Visayas.

One photo exhibit focuses on the *nikkei-jin*, people of Japanese descent, on Panay Island. The exhibit is the product of laborious research conducted by Prof. Ma. Luisa Mabunay of the University of the Philippines. I have written about her work in a previous column.

Another exhibit looks at the *patadyong*, that versatile cotton weave, with 20 samples of different geometric designs, each with their own name—like *binuskay gamay* (small pebbles), *pulahan* (lots of red) and the *linibat*, (literally, cross-eyed, referring to asymmetrical designs).

A third exhibit is devoted to photographs of Iloilo's old buildings in the central business district, around what used to be called Calle Real (Royal Street, or translated by a 19th-century British writer as High Street) but since renamed J. Basa Street.

I was fortunate to be with Leo Quintilla and his wife Zen. Leo is a historian and an anthropologist teaching at UP. He had pulled me out of the hotel to visit some heritage sites in Iloilo. The instant tour included a sunset peek at the ruins of the old Casino Español and dinner in an old house, reincarnated as Afriques Restaurant, and a drive around the central business district.

The district, which includes Basa, Mapa, Guanco, Aldeguer, Guanco and Iznart streets, is home to many old buildings built from the 1920s to the 1950s, mostly in Art Deco style. Many are still functional, the first floor used as shops, and the upper floors as residences. The combinations are wonderfully eclectic—one of my favorites has a bakery on the first floor, while the second floor has residences with wide windows through which you can peek in to catch exquisite woodwork.

Model

Iloilo could be a model for other Philippine cities when it comes to the preservation of heritage sites, which they define as any place more than 50 years old. The city government has passed a World Cultural Heritage Conservation Ordinance, together with guidelines for conservation planning and development.

That same day I was in Iloilo, a local newspaper, The Informer (with an INQUIRER look-alike masthead), publicized a campaign to save Calle Real. That article led me to the website of the Canadian Urban Institute (www.philippines.canurb.com), where I was able to download a hefty 10 megabyte document describing the conservation ordinance and providing guidelines.

The document should be required reading for college students, in or out of Iloilo. The city government, in partnership with local architects and conservationists, has done its homework describing the historical context of the buildings, from Iloilo's sleepy beginnings as the village of Arevalo in the 16th century, through its urban development in the 19th and 20th centuries. There's a catalogue of heritage buildings, from religious houses to Lucky Auto Supply, with architectural drawings and descriptions of the façades.

The document gives a rather glum description of the current situation in the central business district. While many buildings are intact, many are deteriorating. Others have been "maligned" by ugly signs (one photograph showed a "Wanted GROs" sign posted on one of the old buildings). The guidelines are almost confessional, admitting that the city government's own skywalks (overhead pedestrian bridges) have "blighted" the historical landscape.

Incentives

The conservation law offers some hope by forbidding the buildings' alteration or demolition without permission from the city government. There's a list of prohibited uses for the buildings—new warehouses to funeral parlors, and "recreational activities, lewd shows, betting and gambling stations, massage and saunas."

The ordinance offers incentives by way of tax exemptions, for property owners who will spend for conservation. This is where the guidelines come in, with suggestions on everything down to garbage bins. The guidelines explain what can be done in the area of architecture—for example, the space between buildings, and the preservation of "arcaded sidewalks" for pedestrians. Reading that section on the sidewalks reminded me of how so many of these old buildings are actually so much friendlier to people—the building owners sheltering passersby from the sun and the rain. Of course, their intentions were also to attract possible shoppers, who would pause and look at their display windows, but the arcaded sidewalks were so much more humane, and aesthetically pleasing, than our malls today.

Public, private

Yes, I did realize the irony of a heritage exhibit in a mall like SM City, but maybe the exhibit did speak, too, of how heritage preservation need not clash with modernity, or with commercial interests.

Easily, as the central district goes through a renaissance, the city gains as well. Property values are bound to soar and businesses prosper. This could mean the district becoming too upper-class or too "touristy," and that, too, would be a shame. The city government might want to think of ways of keeping it friendly to all Iloilo residents or tourists, rich or poor alike. There are plans for sidewalk cafés and a night market, properly integrated, of course, into the overall design of the area. Providing fairly low rentals could make the market friendlier to all classes.

Iloilo's conservation guidelines keep going back to the point of making a heritage site more people-friendly, not necessarily just for shoppers and consumers. The guidelines emphasize convenience for pedestrians as they walk through, and the removal of any obstructions that might prevent them from appreciating the heritage sites.

In a way, that conservation ethic is reflected as well in the "Handurawan" exhibit, which gets people to appreciate a whole range of our heritage, from the designs on the *patadyong* to the fine architectural details of old buildings.

Conservation is, of course, more than visual stimulation. The revival of Calle Real can be catalyzed, too, by breathing in culture, allowing it to become a venue for cultural events. Iloilo is, after all, home to so many great artists, from the Kabayao family of musical virtuosos, to painter Rock Drilon.

With well-planned public activities and public education (a good start is the way they've offered a raffle for MP3 players to people who send in comments on the conservation guidelines), Iloilo's residents—young or old, rich or poor—will understand they're conserving not just buildings and public space, but their identities as Ilonggos, as Filipinos. Eventually, they'll feel they have stakes in keeping all of Iloilo a city of Royal or High Streets.

A useless exercise

THE FRONT-PAGE NEWS ITEM on the horse-racing czar who got axed for misusing government funds (PDI, 5/4/06) is no big deal.

I say this because firing a corrupt government official without recovering the stolen money from him and putting him behind bars in accordance with the law just encourages more public officials to steal money from the government.

It will only give him an early "vacation" and millions of pesos that he and his family can spend to enjoy a life of luxury and abundance.

The Ombudsman and the Sandiganbayan will do well to follow what righteous governments practice: (1) Fire corrupt officials; (2) immediately forfeit their ill-gotten wealth; (3) put them behind bars where they belong; and (4) publish their pictures on the front pages of prominent dailies like the INQUIRER.

—PROCOPIO S. BELTRAN JR.,
2845 Juan Luna St.,
Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila

In conformity with RPN-9's thrust and strategy

PERTINENT TO THE COLUMN TItled "Big man gets back," by the INQUIRER's and RPN-9's Mon Tulfo (PDI, 5/23/06), the RPN chair, the board of directors and executive committee (ExeCom) expressly state there was never any discussion of canceling the program "Isumbong Mo! (Tulfo Brothers)."

The airing or cancellation of broadcast materials is within the exclusive purview of the RPN ExeCom, which is composed of the president/CEO, general manager Leonor Linao, assistant general manager for operations Edith del Rosario, assistant general manager for finance Ida Barrameda, assistant general manager for sales Cencio dela Cruz, engineering manager Rene Allarde and human resources manager Lourdes Angeles.

The decision to air "Isumbong Mo!" was based on its conformity to the network's programming thrust and marketing strategy.

At no point did the ExeCom waver in its decision, and neither was there ever any attempt from any quarter to block the airing of the program.

—MIA A. CONCIO,
president and CEO,
SERGE REMONDE, chair,
RPN Radio Philippines
Network Inc., Diliman, QC

Positive stories

MAY I CONGRATULATE THE INQUIRER and Blanche Rivera for the news story "Volunteer moms take care of special kids." (PDI, 5/16/06) Through the INQUIRER, may I also salute these moms. May their tribe increase!

The item caught my eye at once when I glanced at the paper while I was praying the Holy Rosary with Mother Angelica at EWTN. After seeing it, I could not concentrate anymore. I wanted to read the story immediately. Such stories fill my heart with joy. Like the poor lady who kept a girl from committing an abortion. Like the school principal who taught kids how to cope when their parents are working abroad. I am sure there are more of these persons—only waiting to be discovered and written about.

Thanks to the INQUIRER for what it is doing. God bless the INQUIRER for such stories. More power for more positive news, please?

—CONSUELO DANCEL SISON,
Capitol Hills, Quezon City

Imagining ghosts and mysteries in MWSS' La Mesa housing project

ONCE AGAIN, NEAL Cruz has polluted the journalism profession with his column, "Mysteries around the MWSS housing project." (PDI, 5/24/06)

True to the name of his column "As I See It," he only presented his biases against the project as he saw it, without giving space to the contrary positions that were clearly explained last May 22 at the Kapihan sa Manila Hotel, where he acted both as host and principal guest.

Cruz sees ghosts where there are none and attempts to unravel imagined mysteries.

May I underscore the following points to clarify the issues:

1. Not a single particle of waste will pollute the La Mesa Reservoir as guaranteed in the mitigating measures stipulated in the Deed of Absolute Sale belatedly executed by the MWSS in favor of the 1,411 union member-awardees. Aside from implementing flood control, drainage and sewerage systems, leak-free and impermeable sewer pipes will be used; a wastewater treatment plant will be constructed.

2. My assistance to the awardees—transparent, legitimate and free—is consistent with my steadfast advocacy for workers and disadvantaged sectors even if they are outside my district. I give them legal advice which is not prohibited. The ban on legislator-lawyers is limited to personal appearance as counsel in litigations before judicial, quasi-judicial and administrative bodies.

3. Since 1998, I have helped the awardees secure the deed of sale from the MWSS to realize the housing project they obtained 38 years ago in a CBA that the Supreme Court confirmed 31 years ago.

4. It is not demeaning or suspicious for me to act as a "messenger" for workers. I personally delivered the check payment to the MWSS to assure that it would in turn convey the land title to the awardees without delay.

5. After assisting the awardees in securing the deed and registering the land in their names, I have no reason to intervene in how the awardees exercise their proprietary rights provided they comply with the laws.

6. My privilege speech cited SM Fairview, Robinson's and about 20 subdivisions near the La Mesa Reservoir to emphasize that these developments were able to secure the requisite Environmental Compliance Certificates (ECCs) because mitigating measures guarantee that the dam will not be polluted, whether the projects are above or below the dam.

7. The housing site is not public land. It is part of the MWSS' disposable property consisting of privately owned lots acquired by the MWSS decades ago. According to the DENR, it is neither a declared watershed nor a protected area under the Nipas Act.

8. Projects can still be developed even in protected areas provided an ECC is issued under the Environmental Impact Statement System.

9. Transferring to another site becomes relevant only if no ECC is issued. Incidentally, no other site has been offered by the MWSS to the awardees.

10. Without an ECC, the awardees will not start the housing development which the DENR has certified as a "non-environmentally critical project."

—REP. EDCEL C. LAGMAN,
First District, Albay

Why reward Marcoses?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

RATHER THAN MAKE A DEAL WITH THE Marcoses, why not make a deal with people who can lead the government to the recovery of their stash? Why reward the Marcoses instead of those who can help the government?

Or, is it that there is money to be made by government officials if the loot is divvied up while they are in power?—**Jose Orozco, Calamba, Laguna (via e-mail)**

* * *

I wish Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo would come to terms with herself and be just like her dad, who was so humble, correct and honest.

Diosdado Macapagal was just like my own dad, and I treasure the memories of my time with him so much. I always tell my children how good a President he was.

I am not saying GMA is not good at all but her "me, me and me" attitude is not good at all.

If I say this, it is because I care for her as an elder brother would. When we were young, I would see her playing in the Malacañang compound with her little brother during weekends, her mother always around with the "Stalag men" as her security. Arthur, and especially Cielo, joined them sometimes. Arthur and Cielo are the Macapagals who are just like the late President.—**Mike M. Moreno, Canada (via e-mail)**

* * *

In the INQ7.net Breaking News story, a paragraph ran thus: "Thirty-six countries have already reviewed this film ['The Da Vinci Code'] and they have not banned it. So are we just out of the Stone Age?"

The answer is yes. Indeed, people who cannot tell the difference between the Gospel and fiction are operating out of the Stone Age or the Dark Ages.

Get a life, people! Isn't there something else going on in the world worth getting upset about? If you do not want to read the book, then don't read the book. If you do not want to see the movie, don't go see it. I'm sure it wouldn't bother Tom Hanks.—**Steven Simmons, California (via e-mail)**

* * *

The root cause of the current crises is the legitimacy of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. The mere fact that she has admitted talking with Virgilio Garcillano and had a lapse in judgment in doing so is enough ground for her to step down, period.

That is already implanted in the minds of the majority of the people; no matter how hard she tries convincing them that she is innocent, nobody will believe her, except her *alipores* (hangers-on) who benefit from her.

If she really cares for the country and the people, then she should prove it by stepping down. Calling a snap election, with her running again, would not do any good because she has the means and resources to do it all over again—unless, by miracle, she'll do it honestly and let the will of the people prevail.—**Catalino L. Idang (via e-mail)**

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Foreign miners want gov't by their side

SUMMER JOB
Children in Baguio City find ways to earn a living, like these siblings who use an infant stroller to collect recyclable trash around the city.

VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

CANATUAN—FOREIGN MINERS ARE HOPING THE Philippine government will stand by them and their investments here in any face-off with the hugely powerful Roman Catholic Church which opposes mining.

The stakes are potentially crucial for the country, impoverished and burdened by a fast growing population, with officials estimating the industry could generate export earnings of $5.0 to $7.0 billion annually and create thousands of desperately needed jobs.

"There's a little bit of a pause because of the uncertainty but ultimately the government, we hope, will do the right thing," said John Ridsdel, corporate advisor to TVI Pacific of Canada at a ceremony here to top off a tailings dam.

The company, anxious to ensure that all the powers are mollified, called on the services of a local tribal priest to sacrifice a squealing pig to sanctify the operation on this Philippine mountain.

The bishops in this Southeast Asian Roman Catholic nation earlier this year demanded in a pastoral letter that President Macapagal-Arroyo impose a nationwide mining ban, claiming it was socially divisive and environmentally disastrous.

The government stressed that repealing the 1995 Mining Law, recently cleared by the Supreme Court, was a non-starter due to its potential economic fallout.

The trouble is that no one in the industry is convinced that they have heard the last on the issue due to the influence the Church wields in the world's third most populous Catholic nation.

With metal prices running at record levels, the drive to mine is powerful in the Philippines, which boasts one of the world's most generous mineral endowments. Mining firms are trying to borrow hundreds of millions of dollars from banks and other sources for some two dozen major projects.

TVI, which mills 600 tons of gold and silver ore each day two years into its operations, has had the smoothest sailing so far among the eight projects that have reached the production stage.

Others have run into serious trouble.

Australia's Lafayette Mining has been forced to halt operations on Rapu-Rapu Island, having been hit with fines after a waste spillage in October was blamed by residents and Church officials for fish kills.

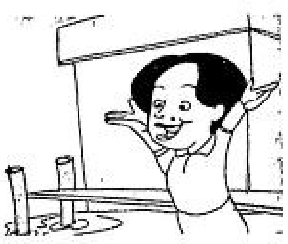
The public relations disaster has cost Lafayette's Philippines managers their jobs. With no cash flow and with overhead costs piling up, its creditors are also circling.

ROUNDUP

Worker rescued from abductors

MARAWI CITY—Authorities rescued a survey firm worker from his abductors in Pualas, Lanao del Sur on May 19. Senior Supt. Akmad Mamalinta, police chief for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, identified the victim as Coronacion Buendicho, a resident of Sampaloc, Manila and a survey aide and encoder of the Telescopic Engineering Services in Manila. Joseph Querido, Buendicho's supervisor, alarmed the local police of the victim's abduction by unidentified armed men, suspected to be high on illegal drugs, authorities said. Mamalinta said Buendicho was abducted at about 4 p.m. on May 18 and was rescued by the Lanao del Sur's 1501 and 1504 Provincial Mobile Police Group, backed by the police forces of Ganasi, Madalum and Madamba towns. The victim was recovered at 5:30 a.m. the following day from his captors led by one Alamona Dimatugul Marohombsar in Barangay Cabsaran in Madamba town. *Nash Maulana, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

GMA to rename port after dad



BALANGA CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo will lead on May 29 the groundbreaking of a P33.5-million passenger port project in Orion, Bataan. The port, now known as the Port of Orion, would be renamed President Diosdado Macapagal Cruise Terminal upon its completion by yearend. The terminal, designed by architect Felino Palafox Jr., has a floor area of 1,250 square meters and will house a number of stalls and restaurants. Local officials said the port will serve as a nautical gateway to Central and Northern Luzon and will enhance business and tourism activities in the region. *Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

NPA tax 'collector' nabbed

LUCENA CITY—Police arrested a suspected New People's Army rebel who tried to demand money from the conductor of a Bicol-bound bus on Tuesday. A police report identified the suspect as Diego Bernales, a security guard from Catanauan town in the Bondoc Peninsula. The report said Bernales handed the supposed NPA extortion letter to the conductor of Bobis Bus Liner while passengers were having breakfast on Tuesday dawn along the Maharlika Highway in Sariaya town. A bus inspector called police who set up a checkpoint. Police caught up with the suspect and arrested him. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

P150M released for airport

LEGAZPI CITY—The Department of Transportation and Communications in Bicol has released the P150-million budget for the acquisition of the land in Barangay Alobo in Daraga, Albay, where the Southern Luzon International Airport will be built. The estimated cost of the construction of this first international airport in Southern Luzon is P3.6 billion, according to Daraga Mayor Jerry Jaucian. The bidding and determination of the actual site is set on June 7. Jaucian said the airport would be finished before the term of President Macapagal-Arroyo ends. It is also expected to bring an increase in employment and tourist arrivals in the Bicol region. The feasibility study of this project started as early as 1996. *Ephraim Aguilar, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Freedom park designated

LIPA CITY—In compliance with the April 20 Supreme Court ruling on the calibrated pre-emptive response policy, the city council has designated the open space between the Lipa City National High School and the Lipa City Youth and Cultural Center in Barangay 2 as Lipa's freedom park for rallies and demonstrations. Councilors Dominador Mauhay and Merlo Silva suggested that the Plaza de Independencia be included in the list of freedom parks but they were blocked.

No tuition increase

DUMAGUETE CITY—Negros Oriental State University (Norsu) president Henry Sojor has assured that there will be no increase in tuition this incoming school year. "Let's do more with less," said Sojor, adding that the university continues to implement austerity measures. The university president said that despite the limited funds from the national government, the school was able to put in place many projects using its savings. *Romy Amarado, PDI Visayas Bureau*

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Benguet execs declare calamity state as hailstones ruin farms

ATOK, BENGUET—OFFICIALS here and in Kibungan town have asked the provincial government to declare their areas under a state of calamity following three hailstorms this summer that heavily destroyed vegetable farms.

Mayors Concepcion Balao and Murphy Paayas of Kibungan said the farmers were shocked over the extent of the hailstones' damage, now estimated to have reached P50 million.

The province's vegetable farms are no stranger to hailstones, Balao said.

But she said the storms that occurred on April 13, May 7 and 9 marked the first time that hailstones really wrought havoc on the farms.

Called "dalalo" in the vernacular, hailstones are ice-like raindrops in the form of small balls or pebbles formed from nimbus clouds.

"The farmers said the hailstones were as big as marbles," Balao told the INQUIRER on Thursday. "Unlike before, the hailstones were really big that they destroyed even the sturdy plants."

Lolita Bentres, provincial agriculturist, said hailstones as big as pebbles could pierce the leaves of plants.

In her report to Gov. Borromeo Melchor, Bentres said 874 farmers tilling 298 hectares of agricultural land here and in Kibungan were hit hard by the hailstorms.

The three crops that suffered the most damage were potatoes (P28.47 million), cabbage (P8.97 million) and carrots (P6.96 million).

DIFFERENT vegetables from Benguet are sold straight to buyers in Clark through the Farm Fresh 25, a direct selling project by Candaba farmers. TONETTE OREJAS/PDI CENTRAL LUZON DESK

Also destroyed were plantations of celery, garden pea, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, sweet pepper, broccoli, string beans, radish and cutflowers.

Bentres said her office could not recommend measures to prevent future losses because hailstones, she said, are natural occurrences.

She said that greenhouses could be effective against the force of hailstones but her office would not suggest their use because the costs were prohibitive.

"Hailstones and hailstorms are not abnormal disturbances. They do happen but we do not know the definite time," said Joseph Rios, chief meteorological officer of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration in Baguio City.

Balao said the farmers are sad over their losses because "farming is their only means of livelihood." "The hailstones actually affected one planting season and the farmers would have to start again," she said. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

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GMA woos support of dads for Cha-cha

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT —President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday sought the support of the Philippine Councilors' League (PCL) for constitutional change, saying the present political system is "an old hat."

"*Habang tinutulak ang repormang pangkabuhayan* (While we are pushing the economic reforms), our final hurdle is our outdated, outmoded and out of touch political system," Ms Arroyo told participants in the 6th Luzon Island Congress of the PCL here.

She asked the councilors to help her administration pursue political renewal.

"Your support for Charter change is indispensable and I am grateful for it," she said. "It's time for the people to benefit from the different reforms that we are pushing for."

Ms Arroyo said the support of the councilors would expedite the moves to amend the Constitution.

"You are the frontline in the government and I can always count on you," she said.

The President also urged the league to lead the government's energy conservation program as she encouraged them to promote the use of hydro, geothermal and natural gas.

"I also ask your group to lead in an honest to goodness energy conservation program in view of the rising cost of oil pushed by events beyond us," she said.

She said she has asked the Philippine National Oil Co. to release P500 million for the planting of jetropha, an endemic plant found to be a rich source of biodiesel, an alternative fuel.

Ms Arroyo tapped the councilors in the government's fight against crime, terror, and graft. *Allan Macatuno, PDI C. L. Desk*

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With the theme, *Development with Equity*, Panibagong Paraan 2006 explores ways of equalizing opportunities - so that all Filipinos can have a chance for a better life and together, work for the nation's development. Development with equity means addressing issues on incomes, assets, services and voice.

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- *Exhibit of 87 innovative projects from across the country*: Finalists for the Project Grant Competition exhibit and explain their project concepts to the public in a tiangge (bazaar) of ideas. Around 50 winners, to be selected by jury, will each receive up to PhP 1 million to implement their projects over a one-year period.
- *Showcase of ideas*: The two-day event will recognize winning entries in the Expression of Ideas competition through – a continuing exhibit of photos depicting images of development with equity, a mini-forum on winning policy proposals, and a display of excerpts of winning essays, capped by the slogans that were selected as best capturing the theme.
- *Multi-sectoral forum on Development with Equity:* a plenary session and roundtable discussions on how to replicate and scale up projects that address inequalities.
- *Helpful knowledge sharing sessions* for micro and small social entrepreneurs and policy advocates.

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Day 1: May 26, 2006

9:30-10:00 a.m. (Outside Hall 3)	Registration
10:00-11:00 (Hall 3)	Opening Program Welcome Remarks Mr Joachim von Amsberg Country Director, Philippines, The World Bank Awarding Ceremonies for the Expression of Ideas Competition
10:00 to 2:00 p.m. (Activity Area 1)	Skills and Technology Demo for the Blind By: Adaptive Technology for Rehabilitation, of the Integration and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired
10:00-2:00 p.m. (Activity Area 2)	Exhibit of Paintings by Mouth and Foot Painters By: Association of Mouth and Foot Artists
11:00-12:00p.m. (Hall 3)	Plenary Forum on Development with Equity Dr Cielito Habito Director Ateneo Center for Economic Research and Development Hon. Jesse Robredo Mayor, Naga City Hon. Esperanza Cabral Secretary Department of Social Welfare and Development
12:00-12:30p.m. (Hall 3)	Open Forum
1:00-1:15p.m. (Hall 3)	Formal Opening of Exhibits of Project Grants, Policy Proposals, Slogans, Essays, and Photographs
1:15-2:00 p.m. (Halls 1 & 2)	Tour of Exhibits
1:30-3:30 p.m. (Seminar rooms)	Simultaneous Roundtable Discussions *Promoting equity through projects: Success and hindering factors and Potentials for scaling up* 1. Income and income opportunities 2. Access to or control of land and other assets 3. Access to basic services 4. People's participation and voice
2:00-2:30pm (Business Lounge, Hall 1)	Media Conference
2:00 to 7:00 p.m. (Activity Area 1)	Doormat Making Demonstration By: Rehabilitation Sheltered Workshop
2:00 to 7:00 p.m. (Activity Area 2)	Guitar String Attachment/ Guitar Making By: Lumanog Guitars
4:30-6:00 p.m. (Hall 3)	Panel Discussion (open to the public) *What can we do next?* Synthesis: Mr Ernesto Garilao Professor, Asian Institute of Management Moderator: Mr Ricky Carandang Broadcast Journalist, ABS-CBN News Channel Resource Persons: Hon. Ralph Recto Senator, Senate of the Philippines Ms. Malou Mangahas VP for Research and Content Development GMA7 News and Public Affairs Mr Francis Estrada President Asian Institute of Management Mr Joachim von Amsberg Country Director, Philippines, The World Bank Hon. Esperanza Cabral Secretary, DSWD
6:30 to 7:00 p.m. (Stage Area)	*Filipiñana Dance Concert* by Muntinlupa Dance Company
7:30 to 8:00 p.m. (Stage Area)	Cynthia *Alexander* sings for Panibagong Paraan 2006

Day 2: May 27, 2006

10:00-12:00 n.n. (Expression of Ideas Booth, Hall 2)	Discussion with winners of Policy Proposal Competition (open to the public)
10:00 to 2:00p.m. (Activity Area 1)	Skills and Technology Demo for the Blind By: Adaptive Technology for Rehabilitation, Integration and Empowerment of the Visually Impaired
10:00-2:00 p.m. (Activity Area 2)	Exhibit of Paintings by Mouth and Foot Painters By: Association of Mouth and Foot Artists
12:00 to 12:30 p.m. (Stage Area)	A Children's Choir Mini Concert By Kaibigan Children's Choir
1:00 to 1:30 p.m.	Joey Ayala sings for Panibagong Paraan 2006
2:00 to 7:00 p.m. (Activity Area 1)	Doormat Making Demonstration By: Rehabilitation Sheltered Workshop
2:00 to 7:00p.m. (Activity Area 2)	Guitar String Attachment/ Guitar Making By: Lumanog Guitars
2:00-5:00 p.m. (Seminar Rooms)	Knowledge Sharing Sessions (open to the public) • Finance & capital • Technology, research & development, and market linkages • Project development • Policy advocacy & the use of mass media
5:30-9:00 p.m. (Stage Area)	Awarding Ceremonies and Closing Program

PROJECT GRANT COMPETITION FINALISTS

- ADVOCATE OF PHILIPPINE FAIR TRADE, INC
- AKAYIN ANG BUKLURAN NG KABATAAN SA DAIGDIG (ABAKADA), INC
- ALLIANCE FOR ALTERNATIVE ACTION, INC
- ALTERNATIVE LAW RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER, INC. (ALTERLAW)
- ALTERNATIVE MUSLIM MINDANAO ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT, INC (AMMEND)
- ASIAN INSTITUTE OF JOURNALISM AND COMMUNICATION
- ASOSASYON NG TRIBUNG SIBUYAN MANGYAN TAGABUKID, INC. (ATSMT)
- ATIKHA OVERSEAS WORKERS AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE, INC.
- BAMBOO PLANTERS AND BAMBOO PRODUCTS MAKERS ASSOCIATION
- BAND AGAINST INJUSTICE AND LAWLESSNESS (BAIL), INCORPORATED
- BARANGAY COUNCIL, BRGY. CATABLINGAN, NAKAR, QUEZON
- BARANGAY OFFICERS FOUNDATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (BOFP)
- BATAS KALIKASAN (THE LAW OF NATURE) FOUNDATION
- BENGUET STATE UNIVERSITY MULTIPURPOSE COOPERATIVE (BSUMPC)
- BINGAWAN WORKING YOUTH FEDERATION (BWYF)
- BOHOL INITIATIVES ON MIGRATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (BOHOLDEV)
- CALANCAN BAY FISHERFOLK FEDERATION, INC. (CBFF)
- CENTER FOR AUTISM AND RELATED DISORDERS, PHILIPPINES-PROFESSIONALS FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION, INC (PAFI)
- CENTER FOR COMMUNITY TRANSFORMATION
- CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S FUND, PHILIPPINES (CCF PHILIPPINES)
- COMMUNITY BUILDING AND EDUCATION REFORM PARTNERS (CBERP)
- CORDILLERA GREEN NETWORK
- CREATIVE COLLECTIVE CENTER, INC
- DE LA SALLE - COLLEGE OF SAINT BENILDE (DLS-CSB)
- DE LA SALLE PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS, INC GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS
- DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY - DASMARIÑAS
- DIFFERENTLY-ABLED WOMEN NETWORK (DAWN)
- EVANGELICAL BUSINESSPERSONS AND ENTREPRENEURS FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION (E-BEST)
- FAMILY PLANNING ORGANIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (FPOP)
- FARMING SYSTEMS AND SOIL RESOURCES INSTITUTE, UP LOS BAÑOS
- GENERAL NAKAR DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES, INC. (GENADEV)
- GUALANDI VOLUNTEER SERVICE PROGRAMME INC
- ICLEI- LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY
- ILAWAN, INC
- INITIATIVES FOR DIALOGUE AND EMPOWERMENT THROUGH ALTERNATIVE LEGAL SERVICES (IDEALS, INC)
- INSTITUTE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF EDUCATIONAL & ECOLOGICAL ALTERNATIVES (IDEAS), INC
- INTEGRAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES PHIL., INC.
- INTERFAITH MOVEMENT FOR PEACE EMPOWERMENT AND DEVELOPMENT, INCORPORATED (IMPEDE)
- IRANUN FARMERS ASSOCIATION OF BAYANGA NORTE, INC.
- ISIS INTERNATIONAL-MANILA
- KABALIKAT SA HANAPBUHAY FOUNDATION, INC. (KHFI)
- KATIPUNAN NG MGA ANAK NG BAYAN CITIZENS' DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES, INC. (KAAKBAY CDI)
- KATOTOHANAN, PAGKAKAISA AT SERBISYO (KPS) INC
- LANAO FOUNDATION
- LAYAG THEATER GROUP
- LITERACY CORPS OF MINDANAO (LCM)
- LUMAD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE INC. (LDCI)
- LUNTIANG GINTO MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE
- MAGUINDANAO FOUNDATION FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEVELOPMENT INCORPORATED (MFGGDI)
- MAHINTANA FOUNDATION, INC
- MARIANO MARCOS STATE UNIVERSITY
- MAXIMO T. KALAW INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT
- MEDIATORS NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE PEACE (MEDNET), INC
- MINDANAO BUSINESS INFORMATION AND OFFICE SERVICES (MIND-BIOS), INC
- MUNICIPAL FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (MFARMC) - TIWI, ALBAY
- MUNICIPAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF PINABACDAO, SAMAR
- MUNICIPAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF SADANGA, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE
- MUNICIPAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF SIBUNAG, GUIMARAS
- NORTHERN MINDANAO SHIPPERS' ASSOCIATION (NORMINSA), INC
- ONE PANGASINAN FOUNDATION FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT, INC
- PAMANA KA SA PILIPINAS
- PARENT'S ALTERNATIVE, INC. / A NATIONAL TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE AND EDUCATION
- PHILIPPINE BUSINESS FOR SOCIAL PROGRESS (PBSP)
- PHILIPPINE DEAF RESOURCE CENTER, INC (PDRC) PHILIPPINE FEDERATION OF THE DEAF, INC. (PFD) FILIPINO DEAF WOMEN'S HEALTH AND CRISIS CENTER, INC (FDWHC)
- PHILIPPINE GREENS INSTITUTE (PGI)
- PROJECT SEAHORSE FOUNDATION FOR MARINE CONSERVATION
- PUERTO GALERA TOURISM SECTOR COORDINATING ASSOCIATION (TOSCA)
- RAINBOW INTERVENTION CENTER FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION, INC (RICAFI)
- RINCONADA MOVEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (RINCOMESA)
- SA AKLAT SISIKAT (SAS) FOUNDATION, INC.
- SAMAR MICROCREDIT COOPERATIVE (SAMICO)
- SAMBOKSILAN DE LIBON, INC
- SAVE THE IFUGAO TERRACES MOVEMENT (SITMO)
- SHONTOUG FOUNDATION, INC
- SIBOL NG AGHAM AT TEKNOLOHIYA (SIBAT)
- ST MA GORETTI DEVELOPMENT EDUCATION FOUNDATION
- STA TERESITA OF MIARAYON, INC (STM)
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- UPHOLDING LIFE AND NATURE (ULAN)
- URBAN POOR SMALL FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC (UPSFAI)
- YES2LIFE FOUNDATION INC.

EXPRESSION OF IDEAS FINALISTS

Policy Proposal Finalists

Teachers for the Country
Hay Laya Kang Lumipad
Eirene Jhone Aguila, Quezon City

Poverty Alleviation Standardization Program
Grizelda Mayo Anda, Puerto Princesa City

Towards Responsible Mariculture Practices in Philippine Municipal Waters
Marlina Andalecio, Iloilo

To Maximize the Use of Forensic DNA Technology in the Philippine Criminal Justice Through the Mandatory Collection, Analysis and Preservation of Evidence Collected from Victims and Scenes of Sexual Assault
Dr. Ma. Corazon De Ungria, Quezon City

The Spreadlight Policy: Micro-scale Renewable Energy Popularization
Enrique Gallardo, Jr., Quezon City

Making Legal Aid a Criterion in the Selection of Appointments to the Judiciary
Jose M. Jose, Makati City

Aquaculture for Fisherfolk
Jose Mabulay, Jr. and Lutgito Uy, Samar

Essay Finalists

Essays in Filipino

Karampatang Pag-unlad -- Posible Ba?
Kathleen Lailani Ferrial, Laguna

Ikaw at Ako sa Iisang Bansa
Roman S. King, Pampanga

Ang Balanse sa Lipunan
Aaron G. Laylo, Kalookan City

Pagbabago para sa mga Pilipino
Freeline Lising, Kalookan City

Essays in English

An A.C.E. Approach in Poverty Alleviation
Dr. Victor M. Arguelles, Batangas City

Reclaiming the Edge of Education
Early Sol Gadong, Iloilo City

A Formula for Disaster
Catherine Liamzon, Quezon City

Equity in Development of City and Countryside
Lilia Ramos De Leon, Tagaytay City

Out of Luck
Francine Anne R. Sayoc, Quezon City

Slogan Finalists

Ganap ang kaunlaran kung lahat nakikinabang
Cecil Armada, Marikina City

Ang pag-unlad ay wagi kung lahat ay kasali
Maria Mercedes Arzadon, Tabaco City, Albay

Sa patas na laban, kaunlaran ay makakamtan
Tess Mediabia, Laguna

Patas na oportunidad. Mamamayang may abilidad. Bayang maunlad.
Edgar Ramores, Naga City

Antas ng buhay ay aangat kung may pagkakataon ang lahat
Froilan Sia, Makati City

Photography Entries Selected for Exhibit

Raise the roof
Leo Borres, Naga City

Sweet Corn Livelihood of Batangas*
Ranel Jose H. Castañeda, Quezon City

Thirst for Knowledge*
Joe Galvez, Makati City

Saving the Sea Turtles of Caringo Island
Joshua Guinto, Camarines Norte

So Young, So Heavy
Victor D. Kintanar, Cebu City

My Wooden Scooter
David C. Leprozo Jr., Baguio City

Visualize
Clark Duterte Pelaez Jr., Clark Cebu City

Honey On Garbage*
Alnor Tabanera Palec, Cebu City

Save the Rice Terraces and Its Farmers
Alford Marion C. Ronquen, Cavite City

WUTHLE: Rebuilding Lives after Leprosy*
Cleober Sinues, Manila

Surfing the Web in Marawi*
Bobby Timonera, Iligan

Install Life*
Vicente Jaime Villafranca, Pasig City

Bayanihan
Kerwin Kaiser C. Yu, Quezon City

* Finalist

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The Asia Foundation
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CODE NGO
Consuelo Foundation
League of Corporate Foundations
Makati Business Club
Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement
UNDP
SGP Small Grants Programme PHILIPPINES
NEWSBREAK
PCP Philippine Center for Photojournalism, Inc.
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Baguio militants launch bid to free Beltran

BALLOONS are released into the Baguio sky by supporters of detained labor leader Crispin Beltran, who was sent to jail by government authorities on suspicion of involvement in a plot to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo. VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

BAGUIO CITY—BALLOONS AND POSTcards were the new artillery that militant workers started using on Thursday in simultaneous street protests that sought the release of detained Anak Pawis Rep. Crispin Beltran.

Members of the Kilusang Mayo Uno in the city asked passersby to write the United Nations Commissioner on Human Rights about Beltran's condition in his third month in detention.

They earlier released balloons that bore a banner that asked authorities to "free Ka Bel (Beltran's nickname)."

Beltran was arrested on Feb. 25, the 20th anniversary of the first Edsa Revolt, after Malacañang implicated him in an alleged leftist-rightist coup plot.

A regional trial court judge dropped these charges recently, but Justice Secretary Raul Gonzales refused to release Beltran after he ordered state prosecutors to file a new rebellion charge against the lawmaker.

KMU members here offered Baguio residents samples of glossy postcards bearing the faces of Beltran, and fellow Anak Pawis Rep. Rafael Mariano, Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teodoro Casiño, and Gabriela Rep. Liza Maza who were secured by Congress to prevent their arrest by the police.

Each postcard is addressed to the UN High Commissioner on Human Rights on 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, Geneva, Switzerland. It declares that the bearer "protests the arbitrary arrest of … Beltran" and all of the so-called Batasan 5.

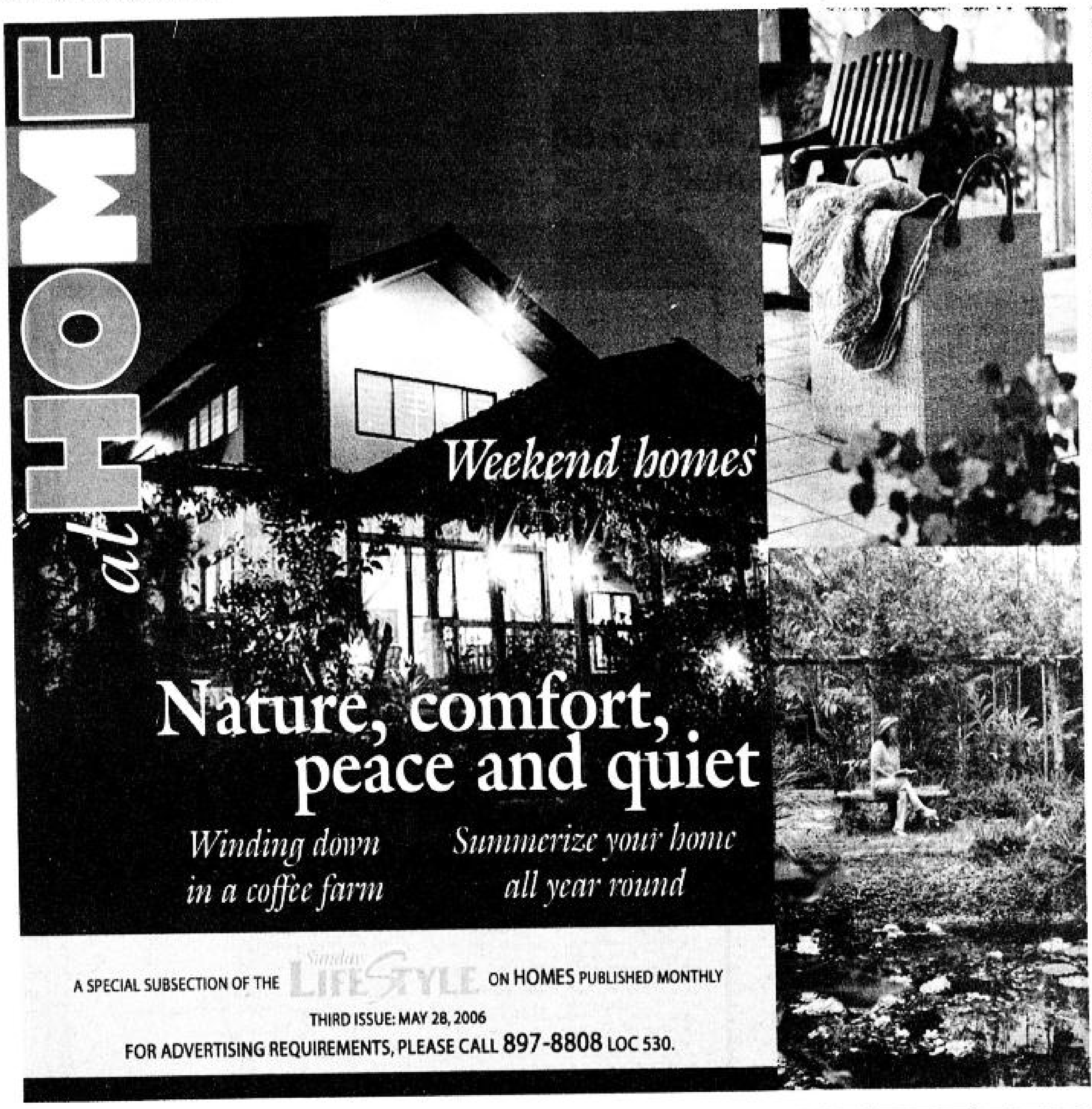
Proceso Gonzales, 70, a retired mine worker, and Conrado Carolina, an employee of the Benguet State University, signed the first postcards here that were designed to alert the UN Commission on Human Rights on the "political persecutions" of the five congressmen by the Arroyo administration.

"These five progressive members of the Philippine Congress are victims of political persecution by the regime of President Macapagal-Arroyo which they have consistently criticized for its violation of human rights, massive corruption and electoral fraud," the postcard read.

"I demand action against the Arroyo administration's acts of political persecution and an end to the violation of the Filipino people's human rights and civil liberties."

Gonzales, who used to work for the Lepanto Consolidated Mining Corp., said he signed the postcard "so that people can finally learn just what has been wrong about [the Arroyo administration] all these times."

He said people like Beltran have the right to be heard. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*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Gray-haired soul singer is 2006 'American Idol'

From page A1

"Idol" has steadily gained credibility in the industry, turning out a Grammy winning performer in Kelly Clarkson while past winners and runners-up have sold more than 33 million records.

At the Country Music Awards on Tuesday, former "American Idol" champ Carrie Underwood was named top new female vocalist, and also won the single record of the year honor for "Jesus Take the Wheel." The fifth season of "American Idol" saw the wannabe stars collaborating with icons like Stevie Wonder and Rod Stewart.

Harmonica playing Hicks, who spent years singing in local nightclubs, wins a coveted recording contract and will release his first single in the next few days.

A lot of feeling

"I didn't have any idea that Americans would embrace gray hair as much as they have," Hicks said backstage, thanking his fans. He said he planned to make "an album with soul. It's going to have a lot of feeling."

"I'm heading to the studio as quickly as I can," Hicks said. "But I'll take a few days off to clear my head." And he would love to tour with younger R&B and rock artists such as John Legend and John Mayer, he said.

63 million votes

The fifth season of "American Idol" proved the most successful ever, forcing rival TV networks to reschedule their programs to avoid competition. The show returns for a sixth series in January.

More than 63 million votes were cast, "more than any president in the history of our country has received," Seacrest said. Specific tallies for Hicks and McPhee were not immediately announced.

AS CELEBRATED AS the "American Idol" hit show, judges Simon Cowell (left), Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson lap up the show's finale at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood on Wednesday. REUTERS

Fans picked the soulful sound and footloose moves of Hicks, who made his mark on Stevie Wonder's "Living for the City" on Tuesday's show, although McPhee's well-trained voice was shown to perfection on the standard "Somewhere Over the Rainbow."

With a style that mixes Joe Cocker with Ray Charles, Hicks was a consistent favorite with viewers despite some acerbic comments from judge Simon Cowell, who said one of his performances was like "a drunken father singing at a wedding."

Stars and Idols

Underwood, last season's victor, opened the finale, joining Hicks and McPhee on "I Made It Through the Rain" and later soloing on "Don't Forget to Remember Me."

Other pairings of contestants and stars on the "Idol". finale included Paris Bennett and Al Jarreau; McPhee and Meat Loaf; Chris Daughtry and Live; Elliott Yamin and Blige; Hicks and Braxton, and the dozen finalists with Bacharach and Warwick.

Prince was a surprise final performer, taking the stage for two songs, including "Satisfied"—and without an "Idol" contestant alongside.

Asked backstage if he had any advice for contestants, Meat Loaf replied: "If you want to do this, you're gonna go up and down, and up and down, and people are going to love you and hate you ... Just stick with it," he said.

It's silly to feel bad

After the show, runner-up McPhee said she hadn't expected to win and didn't have any regrets.

"It would really just be silly to feel bad for me at this point. I got a record deal, a new car," she said backstage.

McPhee said she planned to take a week off to see friends in New York and "go somewhere tropical" before embarking on the "American Idol" tour with Hicks and the other finalists.

As for the future, she said she wanted to model her career after Julia Roberts, and eventually go into movies and back to her musical-theater roots.

'Idoltown'

In Birmingham, Alabama, Hicks' hometown, more than 1,500 people screamed wildly and waved "Soul Patrol" signs during the climax of the broadcast at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex Arena, which producers turned into a huge TV set for the show.

"I love Taylor!" squealed Kristin Spears, 20, of Trussville as "Idol" played on six huge video screens. Friend Barbie Langner held up a sign that said "Roll Tide and Taylor Hicks."

A few yards away, Alabama first lady Patsy Riley jumped up and down in the front row.

This old steel city once called itself "The Football Capital of the South," mainly because the University of Alabama played most big games at Legion Field during its gridiron heyday. These days, city promoters might want to consider calling it "Idoltown"—in four of the five "Idol" seasons, the victor or runner-up has had Birmingham ties.

Ruben Studdard, the "velvet teddy bear," won the second season in 2003 and made the city's area code famous with his "205" shirts. Bo Bice of the Birmingham suburb of Helena was a finalist last year.

In between Studdard and Bice, Diana DeGarmo was the runner-up in 2004. She listed her hometown as Snellville, Georgia, but she was born in Tune Town—a.k.a. Birmingham. *Reuters, AP*

'Mcpheever' fans predict she'll end up a winner

LOS ANGELES—"MCPHEEVER" wasn't enough to carry hometown girl Katharine McPhee to victory on "American Idol," but fans predicted she would end up a winner in the music industry.

"It's gonna happen. Everything that she dreamed or wanted is going to happen," said Leesa Bellesi, a dance instructor and writer from Laguna Beach, California.

"She's going to be the next Clay Aiken," said Stephanie Miranda, a bartender from Covina wearing a "Got McPheever?" T-shirt.

Aiken, the runner-up in 2003, has found more success than that year's winner, Ruben Studdard. Aiken also made a special appearance during Wednesday's finale.

Los Angeles native

Between 300 and 400 cheering fans showed up at Universal CityWalk yesterday to root for McPhee, 22, the first Los Angeles native to make it big on "Idol." The show was broadcast live on a giant screen, and cheers erupted every time the camera turned to the sultry songstress. Boos rang out for eventual winner Taylor Hicks.

"She has a great voice. She has the whole package," gushed Brent Delfin, a college student from Covina.

"Go Kat" signs peppered the mostly under-25 crowd. KIIS-FM had been broadcasting live for most of the afternoon from CityWalk. "Idol" host Ryan Seacrest also hosts the radio station's morning show.

Former "Idol" contestant Tamyra Gray hosted the gathering, which also included McPhee's grandparents.

A number of fans said McPhee was hampered in the competition by the fact that she was from Southern California.

People distracted

"Taylor's been getting so many votes. The South, they really just support the people from their small towns when they make it," said Bellesi. "There's a lot happening in California. People have a lot of distractions."

McPhee's grandmother, Gloria Burch, from Bellevue, Washington, noted that no one from California has ever won American Idol. "I don't know if they got behind her as much as they should have," Burch said.

She was still proud of her granddaughter. "She's going to be a star," Burch said. "She'll follow her dreams. She's a strong girl." *AP*

Rare moment: Bunye says sorry to Pimentel

From page A1

Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. over a Malacañang-produced documentary portraying the senator as a destabilizer.

The apology virtually put an end to the verbal skirmishes that went on and on between Bunye and Pimentel, who had threatened to sue Palace officials over the airing of the documentary, "Paglaban sa Kataksilan 1017," on government TV stations.

The senator delivered a privilege speech in mid-March to denounce the documentary. He demanded an apology from the Palace.

The documentary detailed an alleged plot by an alliance of military rebels, communist rebels and the opposition to overthrow the administration that led to the issuance of Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, the basis for the declaration of a state of national emergency in February.

Grilled

Bunye offered the apology, but not after being grilled on the matter, the "Hello Garci" tapes and the printing of Charter change materials by the National Printing Office, during Wednesday night's plenary debate on the budget of his office.

BUNYE

PIMENTEL

"I would like to make it of record that the term 'enemies of the state' was never used in the questioned documentary," Bunye, who was allowed to speak on the floor to reply to Pimentel's questions, said.

"However, any impression cast to convey that the good senator who has been a fighter for democracy is such, is unfortunate and unintentional."

Sweetness and light

An unimpressed Pimentel pressed on and asked the press secretary if he agreed that his explanation would be more complete if he apologized.

After a pause, Bunye replied: "Mr. President, this representation expresses his apology to the good senator. And again, I would like to acknowledge that the good senator was instrumental in my appointment as officer in charge of Muntinlupa that launched my political career."

Pimentel lightened up and thanked Bunye for acknowledging he was responsible for his assumption to the mayor's post in Muntinlupa while he (Pimentel) was local government secretary during the Aquino administration.

"Thank you, Mr. Secretary, for that information and I appreciate it, coming from a friend," Pimentel said. He said he would not press ahead with his suit.

'Enemy of the state'

After the committee of the whole deemed the P85-million budget of the Office of the Press Secretary submitted, Pimentel rose to interpellate Sen. Manuel Villar Jr., chair of the committee on finance, on the office's controversial activities.

During the interpellation, Pimentel demanded who in Malacañang had ordered the production and funded the documentary, which he said had tagged him as an "enemy of the state."

"I would like to find out who funded that because I will sue. I just want the gentleman to know that I am going to court. But I want to find out who produced this," he said, addressing Villar.

"We might not realize the dire implications of being tagged as an 'enemy of the state.' When a person is tagged as an 'enemy of the state' the military has the right to run after him and exterminate him. That is the function of the Armed Forces—to kill enemies of the state," Pimentel said.

After some coaching from Bunye, Villar replied that it was produced by Radio-TV Malacañang under director Milton Alingod.

"It was produced by Mr. Alingod but of course at one point, it passes the secretary. But he did not produce it," Villar said.

When Pimentel asked if Bunye would bear responsibility for it, Villar replied: "Well, the office is under Secretary Bunye. So that is far as his responsibility goes."

At this point, Villar moved for the suspension of the session. Upon the resumption of the session 10 minutes later, he moved to suspend the rules to allow Bunye to reply to Pimentel's questions.

What happened to tapes

During the interpellation, Pimentel also demanded to know from Villar what happened to the two "Hello Garci" tapes waved by Bunye in June last year supposedly containing conversations between the President and an election commissioner conspiring to rig the results of the May 2004 presidential vote.

Villar said that the tapes had been turned over to the National Bureau of Investigation, but Pimentel stressed the need for the chamber to get a formal report about the tapes from the agency.

"I think it is important that we get a formal report of the NBI. What have they done with those tapes that Secretary Bunye has turned over to them so that we can begin from there or put a closure to it," Pimentel said.

Bigger, heavier, meatier carabaos here

From page A1

In 1992, the Philippine Carabao Act (Republic Act No. 7307) was enacted, creating the PCC.

The center, headed by Dr. Libertado Cruz, has since scored many gains in the development of the native carabao.

Crossbreeding

In 1973, bulls from other countries were brought in by the government to crossbreed with the native carabaos. In the 1990s, more than 3,000 water buffaloes were imported from Bulgaria and the United States. Their females have since been producing quality offspring and the males have been used for crossbreeding.

The PCC later used artificial insemination (AI) for the mass propagation of the "improved" carabao.

A technological breakthrough was the development of the "estrus synchronization." Carabaos ready for breeding can now be induced at the same time.

PCC researchers said that through hormone treatment, which could be applied en masse, female carabaos could be made to ovulate after 91 hours (more than three days) and, therefore, be subjected to AI.

A supplementary feed, called the urea-molasses-mineral-block (UMBB), was also developed to provide the protein and mineral requirements of the animal.

The center has also established a gene pool with sophisticated laboratories and facilities. The best germplasm of the native swamp buffalo and purebred riverine type are conserved in this pool, which is seen as a strong foundation for the sustained carabao development program in the country.

Test-tube carabaos

PCC researchers also developed the "in vitro fertilization" or test-tube technique in carabao reproduction.

On April 5, 2002, the first calf was born using this method and named "Glory." It weighed 44 kg and was at once described by scientists as "top-of-the-line" local-born water buffalo that could produce 14 liters of milk a day.

"Glory" was named after President Macapagal-Arroyo, whose birthday falls on April 5.

Succeeding calves were called "Erap," "Fidel" and "Cory," after three Philippine Presidents—Joseph Estrada, Fidel V. Ramos and Corazon Aquino—who contributed much to the carabao development in the country; "Liberty," after PCC Executive Director Cruz; and "Pat," after Dr. Patricio Faylon, director of the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Forestry, Natural Resources Research and Development.

The center is now producing mozzarella cheese, in addition to milk products like *kesong puti* (native cheese) and *polvoron* (a native delicacy).

Cloning

To further boost carabao production, the PCC is now trying cloning. Since September last year, a team has been transferring cloned embryos to surrogate mother carabaos. They now await signs of pregnancy of the animals.

At least three other countries are trying to score a success in carabao cloning, according to local scientists.

Cruz, in an earlier interview, said many carabao-based industries could provide big incomes to entrepreneurs in the country.

THE PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER is located inside the Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija. Its mandate is to make the carabaos bigger and meatier as well as develop carabao-based industries. ANSELMO ROQUE

99% of milk imported

"It can [improve] the economic lot of the people and provide money to the national coffers," he said. These would come in the trade of meat, hide, milk and milk products.

Milk production from native carabaos, PCC officials said, would be useful as the country imports 99 percent of its milk and milk products requirements.

Since 1998, the center has been providing dairy buffaloes to cooperatives.

Farmers involved in dairy production earn from P22,000 to P30,000 from one dairy buffalo; P95,000 to P170,000 a year from five animals, and P352,000 to P480,000 from 25 dairy buffaloes.

EZ2
12 15

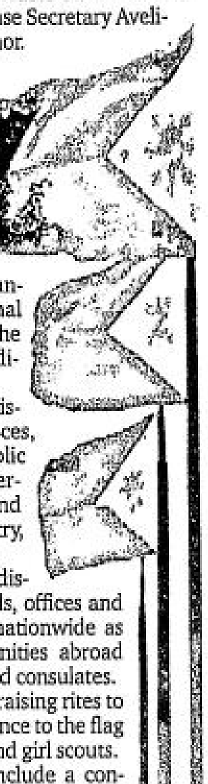
SUERTRES
4 5 6

SIX DIGIT (All in exact order)
2 0 5 3 2 5

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
4 5 27 34 38 39
₱8,000,000.00

Nation to mark Flag Day on 28th

THE NATION WILL CELEBRATE NATIONAL Flag Day, or Araw ng Watawat, on May 28 with rites to be held at the Rizal Monument in Manila and at the Battle of Alapan historical landmark in Imus, Cavite, with Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz as the guest of honor.



Flag Day will also mark the start of this year's 108th celebration of Independence Day on June 12.

Republic Act No. 8491 gives recognition to the Philippine flag by promoting respect for it, the national anthem and other national symbols, which embody the nation's ideals and traditions.

The law calls for the display of the flag in residences, public buildings, public schools, naval and merchant ships, aircraft and ships of Philippine registry, fishing boats and yachts.

Free flags will be distributed to homes, schools, offices and local government units nationwide as well as Filipino communities abroad through the embassies and consulates.

Cruz will lead the flag-raising rites to be followed by the allegiance to the flag to be conducted by boy and girl scouts.

Other activities will include a concert at Rizal Park, a drama series on the national heroes to be aired over Radyo Balintataw, poetry reading over dzRH radio, a feature on our cultural heritage over NBN 4 television, Parada ng Pag-anyaya, and a motorcade to be spearheaded by the Fil-Chinese Volunteer Fire Fighters of the Philippines.

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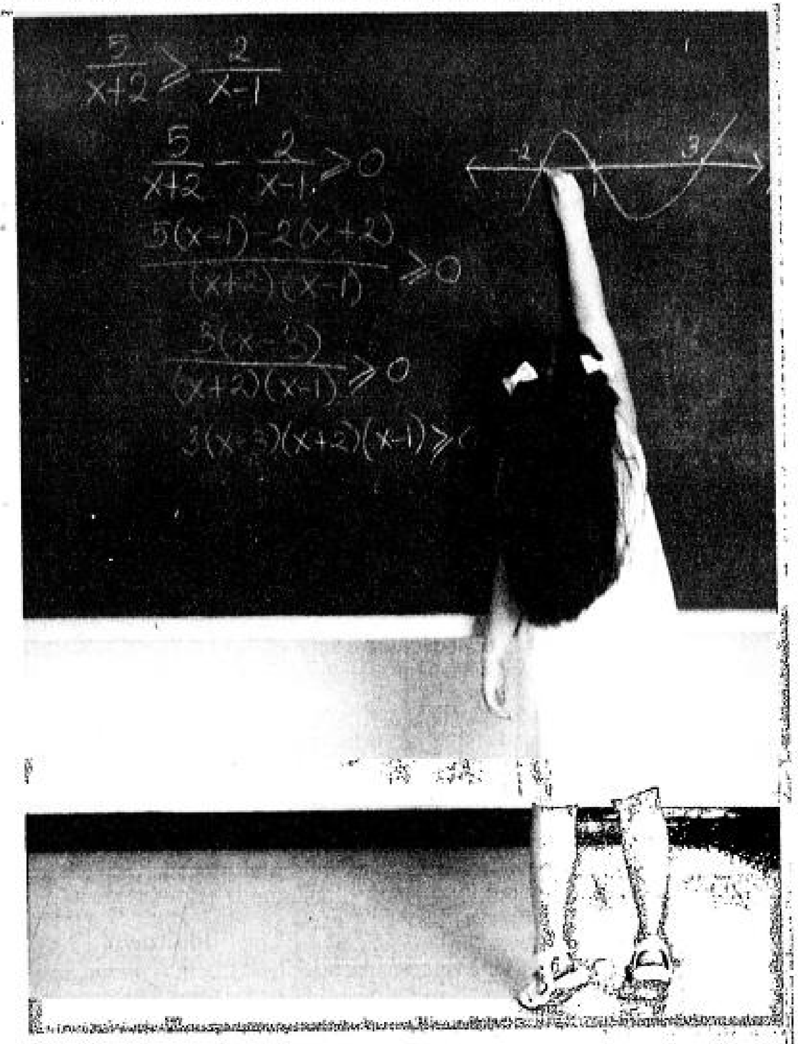

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SUBJECT TO BANK APPROVAL

Aplus METRO

Editor **Ester G. Dipasupil**

Text us your feedback: inquirer met name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) **E-mail:** pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

School safe for June opening

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL IN PARAÑAQUE City will be free of mercury contamination and safe when classes open on June 13.

This was assured by four experts from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) yesterday. The school had been off limits to students after a mercury spill incident in Feb. 20.

"We are hoping that the classrooms will be cleared of mercury vapors today (Thursday)," Steve Calanog, EPA on-scene coordinator told the INQUIRER in an interview yesterday.

Calanog and three colleagues—Philip Campagna, senior chemist; Duane Newell, chemist; and Brian Brass, a scientist—arrived in the country last week to assist in the cleanup being undertaken by a multi-agency group composed of the Department of Health, City Health Office, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Bureau of Fire Protection. "Our intent here is to clean the rooms, to make sure they are in the safest condition possible to provide a healthy learning environment for the children who will be coming back to school in June," Calanaog said.

He said the contamination problem was limited to three classrooms and furniture like tables and chairs. Air-conditioning units did not register traces of the chemical. "Some personal belongings, kids' books that were left in lockers, uniforms of students that showed traces of the chemical have to be disposed of," Calanog said.

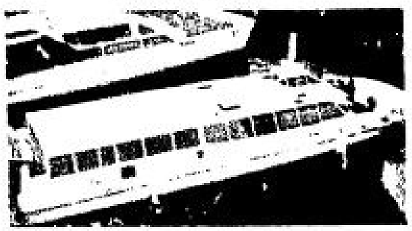
"But those that were negative for contamination were already returned to the children," said Dr. Olga Virtusio, city health office head, who met the experts during a visit to Mayor Florencio Bernabe yesterday.

The EPA experts were scheduled to visit the houses of six students reported to have been contaminated with the chemical. Virtusio said the US team initiated the move so they could check on the extent of contamination in the houses.

The EPA team will also conduct a seminar for local health and environment officials after the cleanup. "We want to share the most efficient and quickest ways to respond to mercury spills in schools," Calanog said.

The cleanup was done for free. Airfare and hotel accommodation expenses, however, were shouldered by businessman Lucio Tan and Parañaque Rep. Eduardo Zialcita.

WHAT'S INSIDE

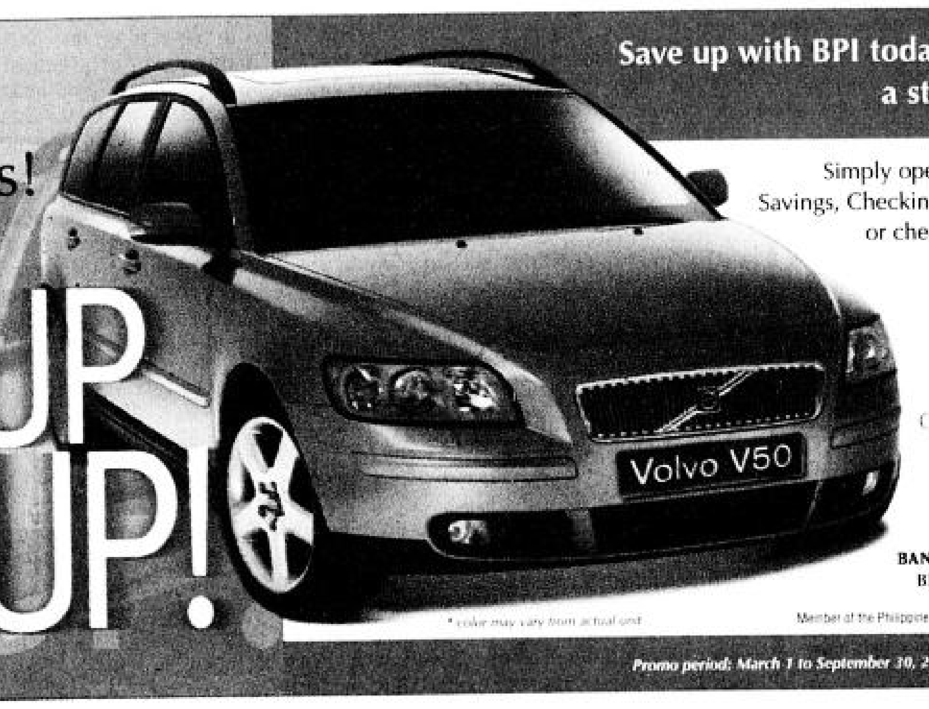


CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

■ **All systems go for Pasig River ferry service** / A24

■ **Taguig freezes permit applications to build on Fort Bonifacio** / A24

■ **Sweet-smelling drivers to greet commuters** / A24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Taguig City suspends new building projects in Fort Bonifacio

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE TAGUIG CITY GOVERNMENT has "frozen" all applications for a permit to build at the Fort Bonifacio following reports that some developers plan to exceed floor area ratio standards.

"This practice is unacceptable as it will inevitably disrupt the planned building massing and development density of Bonifacio Global City," Mayor Freddie Tinga said in a statement yesterday.

Two major developers had submitted applications with the City Building Office to go beyond the floor area ratio (FAR).

Modifications

City Building officer Joselito Mastrili, in a letter to the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. (FBDC), stressed that any modification in FAR allocations would deviate from the approved master plan.

He added that the FBDC should submit proposed adjustments to the city government for review and approval before implementation.

"The FAR is an integral part of the Design Standards and Guidelines of Fort Bonifacio and was established in order to control development density within the Global City," Mastrili said.

Master plan

He said the restrictions were part of the master plan approved by the city government in a 1996 resolution.

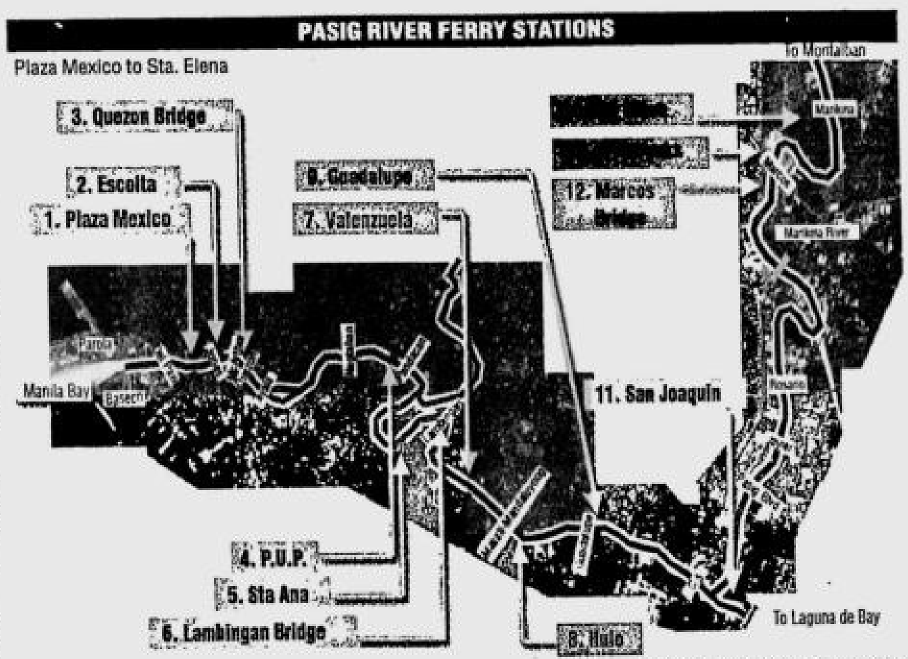
"The FAR of each lot should be strictly followed in order to maintain a cohesive and logical visual corridor within Fort Bonifacio," Mastrili said.

Any deviation from the master plan, like a change in the FAR, would result in an unbalanced development in the new business district, Mastrili added.

Water highway to reduce travel time for commuters

By Margaux C. Ortiz

PASIG RIVER FERRY STATIONS



PASIG RIVER FERRY SERVICE PROJECT TEAM

THOUSANDS OF COMMUTERS IN FIVE cities are expected to benefit from the opening of Metro Manila's water highway at the end of the year.

Government agencies behind the Pasig River Ferry Service project announced yesterday they were speeding up the construction of 10 ferry stations along the Pasig.

Seven of the stations—Plaza Mexico in Intramuros, Escolta, Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP), Sta. Ana and Lambingan Bridge, all in Manila; Hulo in Mandaluyong City; and Guadalupe in Makati City—would be completed before the end of the year, according to Transportation Undersecretary Agustin Bengzon.

"Passenger stations, strategically located along the river, will have modern designs that reflect their historical importance," said Bengzon, chair of the ferry project team, during a press conference yesterday.

He said the stations would have air-conditioned waiting areas, viewing decks, comfort rooms, vending machines, phone booths, lifts and access ways for the physically impaired.

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) Executive Director Bingle Gutierrez said the commission financed the construction of the stations, using a portion of a US$75-million loan from the Asian Development Bank.

Gutierrez said P140 to P150 million was spent for the construction of ferry stations.

He said that three other ferry stations at —Quezon Bridge in Manila; San Joaquin in Pasig City; and Valenzuela in Makati City—would be completed after the opening of the first seven terminals.

The PRRC official added that they were trying to determine the navigability of the Marikina River for proposed additional stations in Sta. Elena, Riverbanks, Marcos Bridge and Napindan, all in Marikina City.

Commander Ronilo Bacolod, project technical working group chair, said private concessionaire Nautical Transport Service Inc. would initially build four boats.

The air-conditioned fiberglass boats could seat a maximum of 150 passengers.

"We are considering a fee of P2.25 per kilometer," Bacolod said, adding the fare would be competitive with train and land-based vehicle costs.

Bacolod added that a convenient ticketing scheme, similar to that used by the rail systems, would be installed in the stations.

DOTC Secretary Leandro Mendoza explained that 28,000 of Metro Manila's 2.4 million commuters are expected to ride the ferry boats daily.

"With the ferry boat service, commuters could avoid traffic jams and shorten their travel time," Mendoza said.

Project officials said the ferry boats were expected to traverse the entire route—which takes at least an hour using other public transport—for an average of 30 minutes.

MMDA distributes free 'tawas' to drivers

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE METROPOLITAN MANILA Development Authority (MMDA) handed out sachets of powdered *tawas* (alum), underarm deodorants and cologne yesterday to encourage jeepney and bus drivers to practice proper hygiene.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando led yesterday's distribution of 100 bottles of deodorant and 50 bottles of cologne donated by Cosmetique Asia, and hundreds of sachets of *tawas* powder, a popular local deodorant-astringent, which the agency bought at the Baclaran market.

The activity was part of the five-year "Metro Gwapo" program, an 11-point rehabilitation effort that covers traffic management and decongestion, roadways clearing, resettlement, flood control and disaster management, to achieve the goal of a "good-looking Metro" by 2010.

MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando hands over "*tawas*" sachet to jeepney driver. REM ZAMORA

Private firms had expressed interest in helping the agency promote proper hygiene among drivers of public utility vehicles.

The MMDA spent P500 on five kilos of *tawas* that was repacked in small sachets. Each sachet was accompanied by a manual with reminders on proper hygiene.

"This alum or any other deodorant helps one smell and feel fresh all day," the manual said.

The MMDA Public Affairs Service said the agency was finalizing a deal with an oral care firm for the donation of breath strips for bus and jeepney drivers.

METROBRIEFS

2 suspected robbers nabbed

TWO men who allegedly shot to death a Chinese-Filipino sales clerk and wounded another in Binondo, Manila, were arrested the other night. The suspects were identified as Pacifico Daggao, 27, of No. 305 Muelle dela Industria St., Binondo, Manila; and Harold Menendez, 27, of No. 4060 MPD Road, Bagbaguin, Caloocan City. Police recovered three empty shells, a slug from a .45 caliber firearm and a motorcycle with police stickers allegedly used by the suspects. "I have directed all police officers, including beat patrol and mobile units, to stop and question riders of motorcycles with police stickers because these have been used in the past to commit heinous crimes," MPD director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said. Santiago Uy, 60, sales clerk; Sopromio Alvarez, 21, also a sales clerk; and businesswoman Liza Chan were walking along Lavezares Street around 6:15 p.m. when the suspects suddenly grabbed Chan's handbag. The suspects shot Uy and Alvarez when they tried to fight back. The suspects boarded two motorcycles and escaped toward Delpan Street but police immediately caught up with them. Uy was declared dead on arrival at the Gat Andres Bonifacio Memorial Center. Daggao and Menendez have denied the charges.. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

Protesters, rejoice

PLANNING a rally in Mandaluyong City? The Plaza Tatlong Bayani is waiting for you. The Mandaluyong City Council has declared the plaza in Barangay Hagdang Bato Itaas, where barangay officials usually organize presentations and festivities, as the city's lone freedom park. Protesters can hold rallies at the plaza provided they inform the barangay officials about their activity days before the actual rally, Mayor Neptali Gonzales II said. This would allow barangay officials not only to arrange the necessary security but also to help them schedule events, he added. Gonzales said they chose the plaza because of its historical value, being the site of mass movements during the Spanish regime. In nearby San Juan town, an opposition bailiwick, the freedom parks include Pinaglabanan Shrine and the Agora Plaza on N. Domingo Street. In Marikina City, the local government had already designated the compound behind the City Hall on Shoe Avenue as a freedom park. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Navotas prepares for rainy season

THE MUNICIPAL government of Navotas has mobilized its various departments to ensure that all emergency measures are in place before the onset of the rainy season. In a meeting with the municipal government's department heads, "We need to take advantage of the relatively good weather we have to clear up the rivers and waterways," said Mayor Toby Tiangco in a meeting with local government officials. The mayor also instructed the Municipal Engineering's Flood Control Team, to continue work on the declogging of canals and waterways in order to ensure the effectivity of the "Bombastik Pumping Stations" in anticipation of more rains this year. Three pumping stations are expected to be operational in the last week of May: Open canals are also being covered and cemented all over the town. According to Municipal Engineer Miguel Serrano, his office has already declogged 85 percent of the town's major waterways as of April.

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Ilocos Sur
MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JUAN

OFFICE OF THE BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Local Government Unit of San Juan, Ilocos Sur, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors classified by the Philippine Accreditation Board (BAC) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Contract	:	Purchase of Computer System
Location		San Juan, Ilocos Sur
Brief Description		120 units
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	:	10,000,000.00

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last (state number of years, minimum 2) with an amount at least 90% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	May 18 - June 1, 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	June 2, 2006
3. Submission of Letters of Intent and Application for Eligibility (*if single-stage bidding is used, delete this activity*)	May 22 - June 2, 2006
4. Opening of Bids	June 6, 2006
5. Bid Evaluation	June 7, 2006
6. Post-Qualification	June 7, 2006
7. Notice of Award	June 8, 2006

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at San Juan, Ilocos Sur, upon their submission of a LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of P5,000.00 to the LGU San Juan, Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the same address.

The LGU San Juan, Ilocos Sur assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:
(Sgd.) CRISOSTOMO V. HILARIO
BAC Chairman

(PDI—May 26, 2006)

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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

BRANCH TELLERING SYSTEM

Supply, delivery and Installation of 156 sets PC Workstation with LCD Monitor, Magnetic Stripe Reader (MSR) and Slip Printer for Branch Tellering System Implementation

1. The SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) intends to apply the sum of P24,186,240.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the acquisition of 156 sets of PC Workstation (with LCD monitor & MSR) and Slip Printer which shall be charged against SSS' CY 2006 Capital Expenditures – Branch Tellering Project.

   Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at bid opening.
2. The SSS now invites Bids from eligible bidders for the proposed acquisition of 156 sets of PC workstation (with LCD monitor & MSR) and slip printer. Supply, delivery and installation of the GOODS are required within **thirty (30) calendar days** after contract signing/receipt of Purchase Order (PO). The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section I of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a **non-refundable fee of P20,000.00**. The method of payment will be on a cash basis payable at the SSS Cashiering Department, SSS Main Bldg., Ground floor, upon accomplishment of SSS Form R-6. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The SSS will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **June 09, 2006 at 2:00p.m.**, Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Building **on June 23, 2006 not later than 2:00 p.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and amount indicated in the Bid Tender Documents. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be held on **June 23, 2006 at 2:00 p.m.**, Green Room, 12th Floor, SSS Main Bldg., East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the given address.
9. The ***SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Bid and Awards Committee
The Secretariat
6th Floor, SSS Main Building
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel # 922-2091; 924-7380; 920-6401 local 5491
Email - bac@sss.gov.ph
Facsimile number – (02) 924-7380

THE CHAIRMAN
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

(PDI—May 26, 2006)

PNOC
PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Makati City
Tel. Nos. 893-1320, Local 5288

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

One (1) piece Winch Trailer Mounted and Accessories and
One (1) piece 25,000 feet Wireline under GQ616727
Approved Budget: PHP 6,408,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Mr. Anthony E. Ciriaco** starting **May 26, 2006** and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bid conference shall be held on **June 8, 2006, 2:00 PM** at the above address

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Purchasing at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than **2:00 p.m. (Supply Management Department Office Wall Clock Time) of June 22, 2006.** Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted.**

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI—May 26 & June 2, 2006)

National Irrigation Administration
Region VI, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City

Contract Ref. No.	NIA-R6-JRIS-CWD1-06
Name of Contract	Rehabilitation of Jalaur Dam
Location of the Project	Moroboro, Dingle

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Irrigation Administration, Region VI, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for Eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder Contract:

Name of Contract	Rehabilitation of Jalaur Dam
Location	Moroboro, Dingle, Iloilo
Brief Description	Fabrication & Supply of 200 KSCM Concrete blocks and Supply & Hauling of Boulders
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 7,781,465.40
Contract Duration	150 Calendar Days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows

BAC Activities	*Schedule*		
	TIME	DATE	VENUE
1. Receipt from prospective Bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility, and issuance of Eligibility Forms		May 26 to June 9, 2006	NIA R6, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City
2. Deadline: receipt of Eligibility Requirements		June 9, 2006	NIA R6, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City
3. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check		June 23, 2006	NIA R6, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City
4. Issuance of Bid Documents		June 30, 2006	NIA R6, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City
5. Pre-bid Conference	10:15 AM	July 7, 2006	NIA R6, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City
6. Receipt and Opening of Bids	10:15 AM	July 25, 2006	NIA R6, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Forms at the National Irrigation Regional Office 6, Bonifacio Drive, Iloilo City, upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 500.00 to the NIA Region VI Cashier. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

The BAC will issue Bidding Documents only to bidders declared by the BAC to be eligible for the bidding upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,500.00 to the National Irrigation Administration Region VI Cashier.

The National Irrigation Administration assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

The National Irrigation Administration reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved:

(Sgd.) ELISEO R. CARREON, CSEE
BAC Chairman

(PDI - May 26 & June 2, 2006)

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

HIV traced to wild Cameroon chimps

WASHINGTON—TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER the first AIDS cases emerged, scientists have confirmed that the HIV virus plaguing humans really did originate in wild chimpanzees, in a corner of Cameroon.

Solving the mystery of HIV's ancestry was dirty work. Scientists employed trackers to plunge through dense jungle and collect the fresh feces of wild apes—more than 1,300 samples in all.

Before that, it took seven years of research just to develop the testing methods to genetically trace the primate version of the virus in living wild chimps without hurting the endangered species.

Until now, "no one was able to look. No one had the tools," said Dr. Beatrice Hahn of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She led the team of international researchers that reported the success in Friday's edition of the journal Science.

"We're 25 years into this pandemic," Hahn said. "We don't have a cure. We don't have a vaccine. But we know where it came from. At least we can make a check mark on one of those."

Scientists long have known that nonhuman primates carry their own version of the AIDS virus, called SIV or simian immunodeficiency virus. But with one exception, it had been found only in captive chimpanzees, particularly a subspecies that in the wild populates mostly West Africa.

There are three types of HIV-1, the strain of the human virus responsible for most of the worldwide epidemic. Genetic analysis let Hahn identify chimp communities near Cameroon's Sanaga River whose viral strains are most closely related to the most common of those HIV-1 subtypes.

The first human known to be infected with HIV was a man from Kinshasa in the nearby country of Congo who had his blood stored in 1959 as part of a medical study, decades before scientists knew the AIDS virus existed.

Presumably, someone in rural Cameroon was bitten by a chimp or was cut while butchering one and became infected with the ape virus. That person passed it to someone else. *AP*

CONTESTANTS of the costume contest watch a program at the 14th Life Ball in front of the Vienna's City Hall May 20. Organizers of the 14th annual charity show hope to raise more than 1 million euros ($1.28 million) for people living with HIV and AIDS. AFP

Human-to-human bird flu jump seen in Indonesia

WASHINGTON—MEMBERS OF AN INdonesian family who died of bird flu may have infected each other and health experts are tracing anyone who had contact with them, the head of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said on Wednesday.

The seven deaths in the family in Kubu Sembilang village in north Sumatra over the past few weeks is the largest family cluster off bird flu victims known to date. But villagers are now cooperating with health investigators and there is no sign that the H5N1 avian flu virus has infected anyone outside the family, said CDC director Dr. Julie Gerberding.

Nonetheless, financial markets were jittery and buyers drove up stocks in companies working on influenza vaccines and drugs in what one analyst called a "knee-jerk reaction."

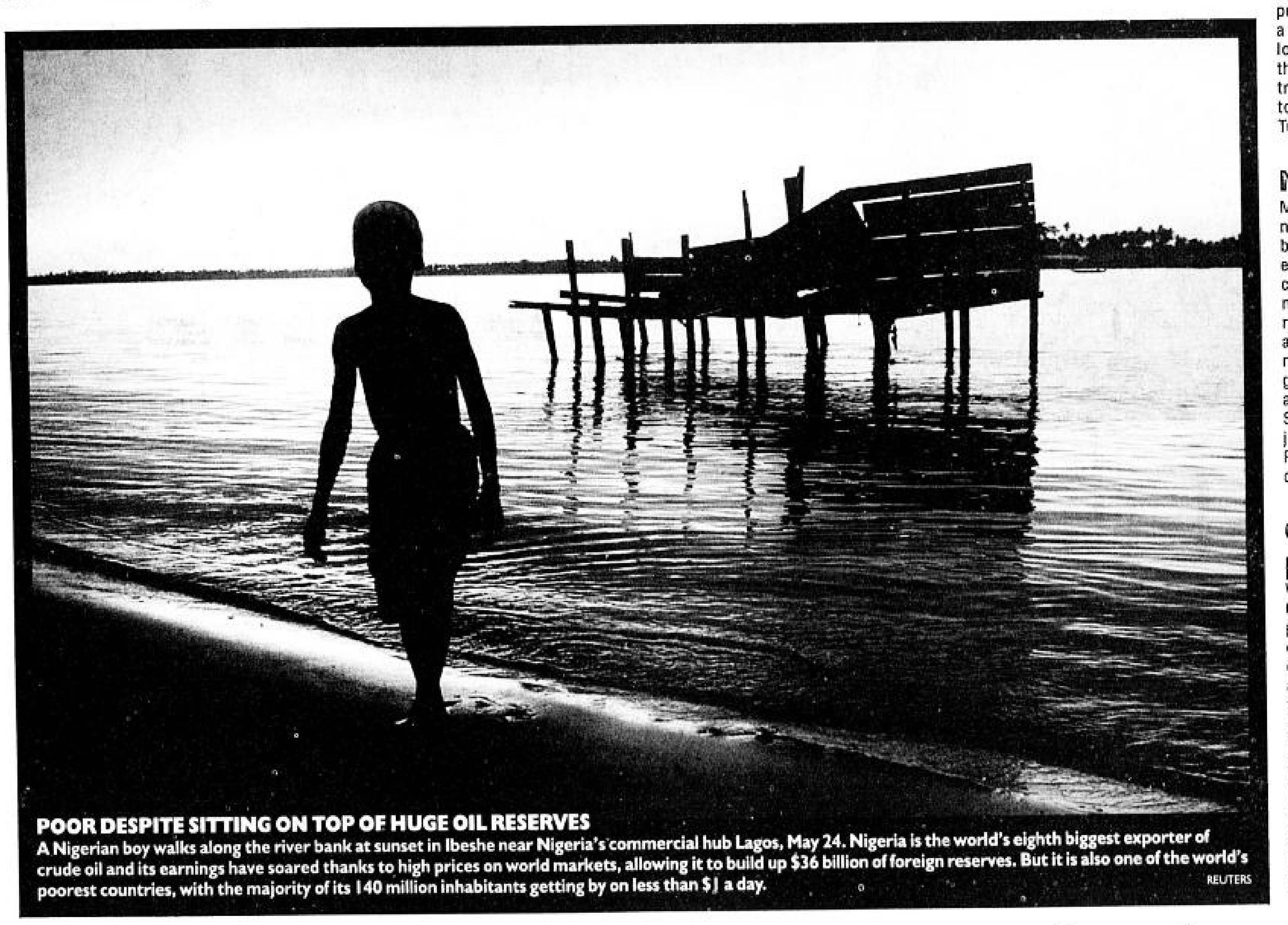
World Health Organization and Indonesian health officials cannot find the source of the infection in Sumatra, but Gerberding said genetic sequencing shows the H5N1 virus has not mutated substantially.

"The concern that has been raised ... is the potential for evidence for human-to-human transmission in this outbreak," Gerberding told reporters in a telephone briefing.

"This is the leading hypothesis that is under investigation. The likely source was poultry exposure, as we have seen time and time again."

But the case may represent what is known as tertiary transmission—someone may have been infected by a chicken and infected a relative, who in turn infected someone else.

While rare cases of human-to-human transmission have been seen before—in Thailand and Vietnam—doctors believe that one person only infected one other in those instances and the chain of transmission stopped there. *Reuters*



POOR DESPITE SITTING ON TOP OF HUGE OIL RESERVES

A Nigerian boy walks along the river bank at sunset in Ibeshe near Nigeria's commercial hub Lagos, May 24. Nigeria is the world's eighth biggest exporter of crude oil and its earnings have soared thanks to high prices on world markets, allowing it to build up $36 billion of foreign reserves. But it is also one of the world's poorest countries, with the majority of its 140 million inhabitants getting by on less than $1 a day. REUTERS

Immigration measure passes US Senate hurdles

WASHINGTON—A BILL THAT WOULD toughen border security while giving millions of illegal immigrants a chance to earn US citizenship cleared key test votes in the US Senate on Wednesday, setting the stage for passage this week and a big battle with the House of Representatives.

The Senate voted 73-25 to limit further debate on the bill as a bipartisan coalition withstood several attempts by opponents to unravel the legislation. Lawmakers now expect the bill to be passed, most likely on Thursday.

"We're now down the home stretch," said Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican who backs the compromise. "We fought off a number of very clearly crafted amendments that would basically have destroyed the bill."

The Senate, on a vote of 67-31, also beat back a challenge from some Republican opponents who sought to kill the bill through a budget procedural point saying it busted spending blueprints. They argued that low-wage immigrants who become legal residents and citizens will be eligible for Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other government programs, adding billions of dollars in costs to the budget.

"This bill is indeed a tremendous budget buster," said Sen. Jeff Sessions, an Alabama Republican who opposes the bill. He said studies show the long-term cost to the federal government could top $50 billion a year.

Supporters said Wednesday's strong bipartisan test votes should help in negotiations with the House, which has already passed a vastly different enforcement and border security bill and where many Republican lawmakers see the Senate legislation as tantamount to an amnesty for people who violated US laws.

"This was an overwhelming show of force to move forward on our common sense and comprehensive plan for immigration reform," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, a Massachusetts Democrat who is helping shepherd the bill through the Senate. *Reuters*

WORLDBRIEFS

Kurdish group owns Istanbul airport fire

ISTANBUL—A radical Kurdish group said Wednesday it was responsible for a fire at the cargo section of Istanbul's Ataturk airport, the hub of international air travel in Turkey, which slightly injured three people and caused delays in air traffic. The claim, which could not be confirmed, was made by a group calling itself the Kurdistan Freedom Falcons (TAK) in a message to Firat, a pro-Kurdish news agency based in Europe. The Turkish authorities have identified an electrical short circuit as the probable cause of the blaze. "The sabotage is a response to the policies of massacre followed by the Turkish state towards the Kurds," the message said. Ataturk Airport is the country's biggest airport and millions of foreign tourists pass through it each year to fly to Turkish resorts or destinations in the far east. *AFP*

Mice die in gene test

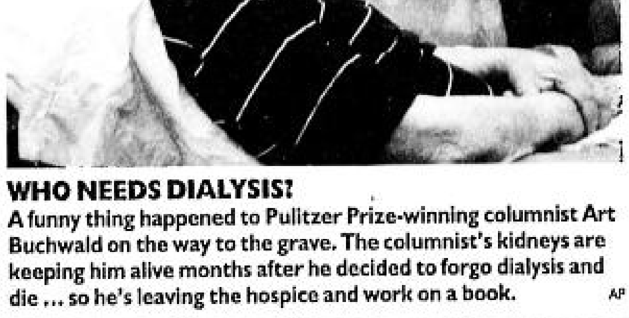
MANY mice died unexpectedly in a test of a new technique for inactivating genes that has been widely proclaimed a breakthrough, scientists are reporting Thursday. The finding could give rise to new caution about the technique, called RNA interference, which is already widely used in laboratory experiments and is starting to be tested in people as a means of treating diseases by silencing the genes that cause them. But Dr. Mark A. Kay and colleagues at the Stanford University School of Medicine report Thursday in the journal Nature that the technique, also called RNAi for short, caused liver poisoning and death in mice. *NYT*

Cheney possible prosecution witness

WASHINGTON—Could Vice President Dick Cheney be a star prosecution witness in the perjury trial of his former chief of staff? Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald suggested in a court filing Wednesday that Cheney would be a logical witness for the prosecution because the vice president could authenticate notes he jotted on a copy of a New York Times opinion column by a critic of the US-led war in Iraq. Fitzgerald said Cheney's "state of mind" is "directly relevant" to whether I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, the vice president's former top aide, lied to FBI agents and a federal grand jury about how Libby learned CIA officer Valerie Plame's identity and what he later told reporters. *AP*

Nepal frees Maoist prisoners

KATMANDU—Nepal's government said Thursday it had freed 467 Maoists from prison and called on rebel leaders to join talks to help end a decade-long insurgency that has left more than 12,500 people dead. Home Minister Krishna Prasad Sitaula told reporters the government had finalized a three-man team that he will head for discussions with the Maoists about elections to a new body to rewrite the country's constitution. The head of the Maoist talks team said on Tuesday they would only agree to talks once the government released up to 1,300 of their men held during the bitter decade-long struggle that has crippled the Himalayan nation. *AFP*



WHO NEEDS DIALYSIS?

A funny thing happened to Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Art Buchwald on the way to the grave. The columnist's kidneys are keeping him alive months after he decided to forgo dialysis and die ... so he's leaving the hospice and work on a book. AP

Australia, Portugal to send forces to E. Timor

DILI—AUSTRALIA AND PORTUGAL agreed Wednesday to send forces to quell violence between East Timorese troops and rebel soldiers, following an urgent appeal from the world's newest nation which said its own Army cannot cope.

Australia's acting Prime Minister Peter Costello said in Sydney an advance group of Australian defense and foreign affairs officials would arrive in Dili on Thursday to discuss details of the deployment.

Defense Minister Brendan Nelson said Australia had offered between 1,000 and 1,300 troops as well as three warships, helicopters, armored personal carriers and heavy airlift capabilities.

In Lisbon, former colonial power Portugal said it would send paramilitary police in what Prime Minister Jose Socrates called "a gesture of solidarity."

East Timor's Foreign Minister Jose Ramos Horta said the first Australian troops were expected to arrive in less than 48 hours, amid warnings from another minister that the government risks losing control of the country.

Dili had asked Australia and New Zealand to send soldiers, and Malaysia and Portugal to send police.

"This decision was taken because of the difficulty the national defense force has in guaranteeing security in this nation," Ramos Horta told a press conference.

Fighting broke out early Wednesday at Taci-Tolu on the outskirts of Dili, home to a military base. There were also deadly clashes on Tuesday between loyal and renegade soldiers.

Ramos Horta told Portugal's Lusa news agency the international force should number around 1,000.

Portugal's Interior Minister Antonio Costa said the size of his country's mission would depend on talks which Lisbon was holding with Australia, New Zealand and Malaysia.

Ramos Horta told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation that "the moment the Australian forces land in Timor, this will have an immediate calming throughout the country."

East Timor, a Portuguese colony and then an Indonesian province from 1975 to 1999, became independent in 2002 after three years of UN stewardship. *AFP*

If it were up to Infoserve President & CEO Jess Dela Cruz, there will be a wireless ATM in every barrio; he's closer to that dream everyday.

Nation-Linking to the Last Mile

A Wireless ATM in Every Town

Aside from a red-hued reception area, the head offices of Infoserve are well, rather plain and unassuming. It looks small from the outside, deceivingly so. First-time visitors are understandably surprised to find that there are hundreds more of hidden square feet inside, totally devoted to bringing modern solutions to the Philippine banking and financial system.

Already a major supplier of bank ATMs to the BancNet and Megalink networks, Infoserve President and CEO Jess dela Cruz III is all excited, for one thing, to "bring electronic banking to the barrios".

"We're proposing to put bank ATMs even out in far-flung barrios, the so-called 'last-mile' barrios. Imagine what a change it would be from before when townsfolk would have to commute to a city center just to get their money," he said.

The biggest limiting factor in hooking up an ATM was once the availability of a landline. ATMs exchange data over this line with head office's centrally located servers. Today landline or no landline, it is possible to operate ATMs remotely thanks to PLDT's Shops.work Unplugged.

"The real revolution behind Shops.work Unplugged is the new wireless environment we have enabled for our clients' machines. Through data-enabled SIMs working in their Point-of-Sale (POS) machines like ATMs, cash registers, card-swipes, these devices can now transact wherever," says Nerissa Ramos, PLDT Head for Corporate Business Solutions. All this real-time coordination and communication is carried over PLDT's extensive wireless and IP network.

For dela Cruz, it's almost literally a dream come true. "Nationlink has been in the works for about 10 years now. Ultimately we hope to bring better money flow throughout the country, to energize it. And we can only do that by hooking up even rural banks, thrift banks, or coops anywhere they are in the country," he said.

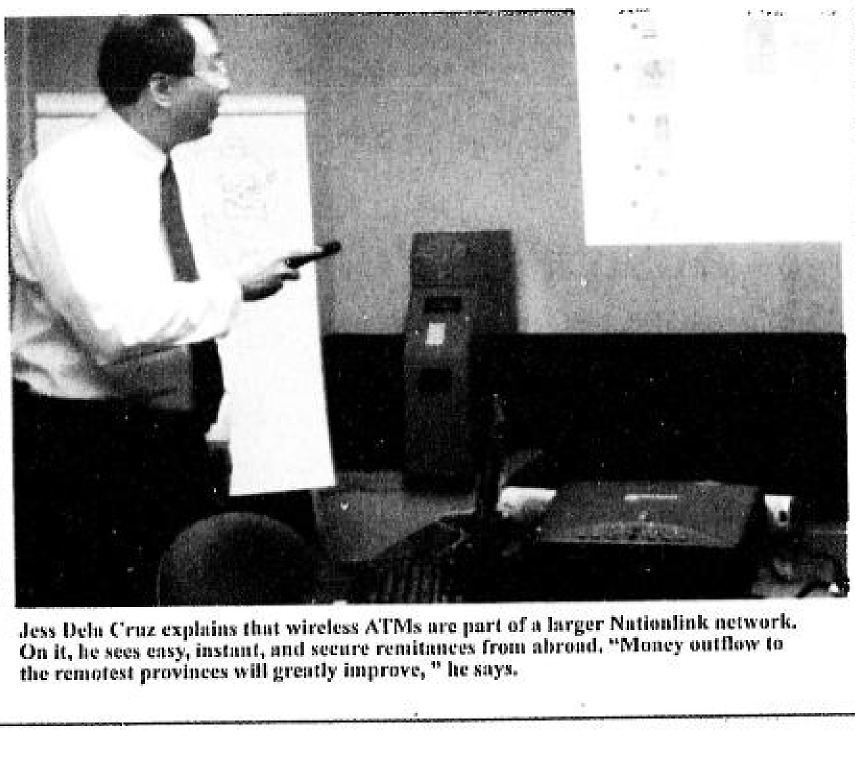
Dela Cruz is certainly a man on a mission, clearly impassioned in an engaging sort of way. It's hard not to be infected by his zeal and enthusiasm. Perhaps 10 years was a long time to wait to make his lofty dream come true, but with PLDT Shops.work Unplugged, the wait is over.

"This gives meaning to technology," he continues, "For me especially, it means that I now can directly help the poor people who live far out in the countryside just like my father, a former labor leader, had once done."

He seems determined in this, realizing his life has gone "full circle" since his early days as a banking advisor. For dela Cruz and Infoserve it will be done one ATM at a time in each of his "last mile" barrios. And with PLDT Shops.work Unplugged, it lends more weight to his position that "ATMs are not a luxury anymore, they are an expectation."

The modem that makes it all possible: seamless international remitances in less than 30 seconds.

Testing Nationlink at Infoserve's Makati headquarters.


Jess Dela Cruz explains that wireless ATMs are part of a larger Nationlink network. On it, he sees easy, instant, and secure remitances from abroad. "Money outflow to the remotest provinces will greatly improve, " he says.

Nationlink's confirmation slips of funds transfered are generated in 30 seconds or less.

SPORTS

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Editor **Teddyvic S. Melendres**

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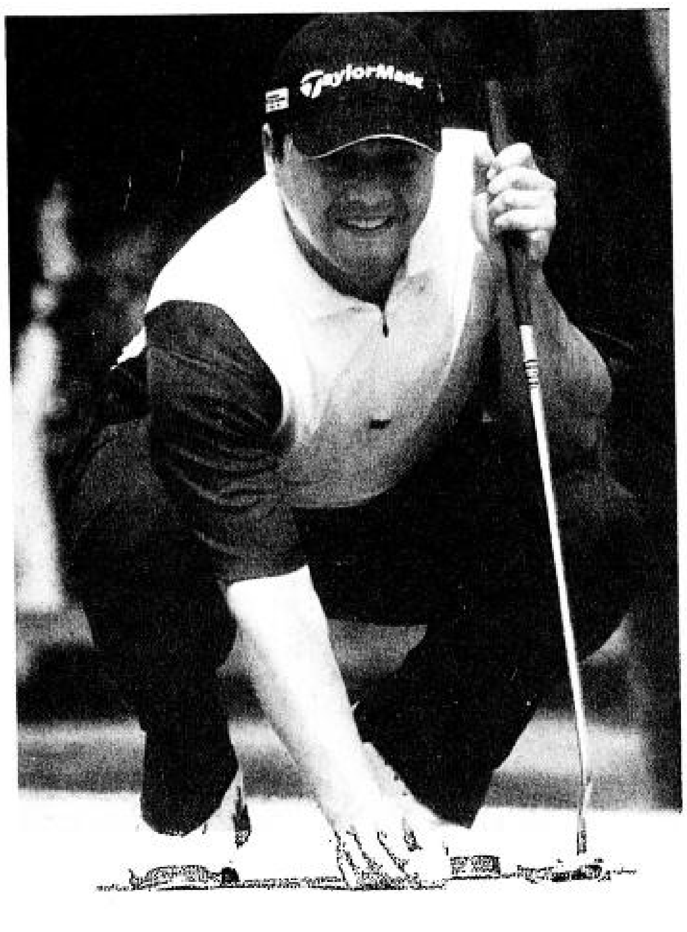
Strange fires 68, leads by 1 shot



BEST FILIPINO: Cookie La'O replaces his ball on No. 17. RUDY ESPERAS

By Musong R. Castillo

AUSTRALIAN SCOTT STRANGE PROVED NO stranger at Wack Wack, firing a 4-under-par 68 in ideal playing conditions yesterday to take a one-stroke lead over four others at the start of the 90th Philippine Open.

Ranked 16th overall in the Asian Tour's Order of Merit, the 29-year-old, Perth-based Strange nailed down six birdies against two bogeys in a 34-34 card at Wack Wack's revered east course.

"I kept the ball in play for most of the round," said Strange, who scored his breakthrough win last year at the Myanmar Open held at the Yengon Golf Club which has the same carabao grass fairways as Wack Wack.

Taiwanese Chang Ting-yeh, a former RP champion, assembled a 69 and tied three others for second spot, even as unheralded Cookie La'O turned in an eagle-spiked 70 to lead the Filipinos in the 156-player field.

One-time Asian Tour winner Angelo Que shot a 71 like Artemio Murakami while Juvic Pagunsan and Mars Pucay submitted level 72s.

While the foreigners frolicked in the first round, the 46-strong RP contingent found an unlikely spearhead in La'O, the former junior star whose closest brush to a first professional victory was a second place finish in the rich, but locals-only The Country Club Invitational last year.

"I am very pleased with my start," La'O, who nailed a 20-foot putt for eagle on the 13th, which was his fourth hole for the day, said. "I was just consistent, hitting my drives well and hitting greens. I wasn't overly aggressive on the putts."

The only hiccup in Cookie's round was on the ninth, which is the East's old No. 18, when his approach fell short and he failed to rescue par by flubbing an eight-foot putt.

Que, the winner of the Carlsberg Masters Vietnam in 2004, dropped shots in four of his last six holes, throwing away a 5-under card which he worked on for his first 12 holes starting from the 10th tee.

Murakami did not find the closing holes of each nine accommodating, dropping a total of four strokes, including a double on No. 9. He had five birdies, though, one coming from 30 feet on No. 12.

Pagunsan, meanwhile, shook off a jittery start with a back nine 33 to stay within range of the leaders in this his first start as a pro in his national championship.

Fancied here because of his impressive win in The Country Club Invitational over the revered Frankie Miñoza, Pagunsan steadied the ship, so to speak, with three birdies in the back nine after going three over on the front side, where he started with a double bogey 6 on No. 10.

"I hit every club well, except my driver," Pagunsan told the Inquirer in Filipino. "I was hitting it close to the pins today and that gives me something good to look forward to."

The feared layout did not bare its teeth that much as a total of 16 players cracked par and eight others turned in even cards.

Scotland's Barry Hume (34-35), Australian Simon Nash (34-35) and another Taiwanese, Wei Lan-Lu (33-36) were the others in second place together with Yeh, the 1993 winner at Southwoods who turned in a 33-36.

Gene Bondoc and Marvin Dumandan were the best-placed ama-

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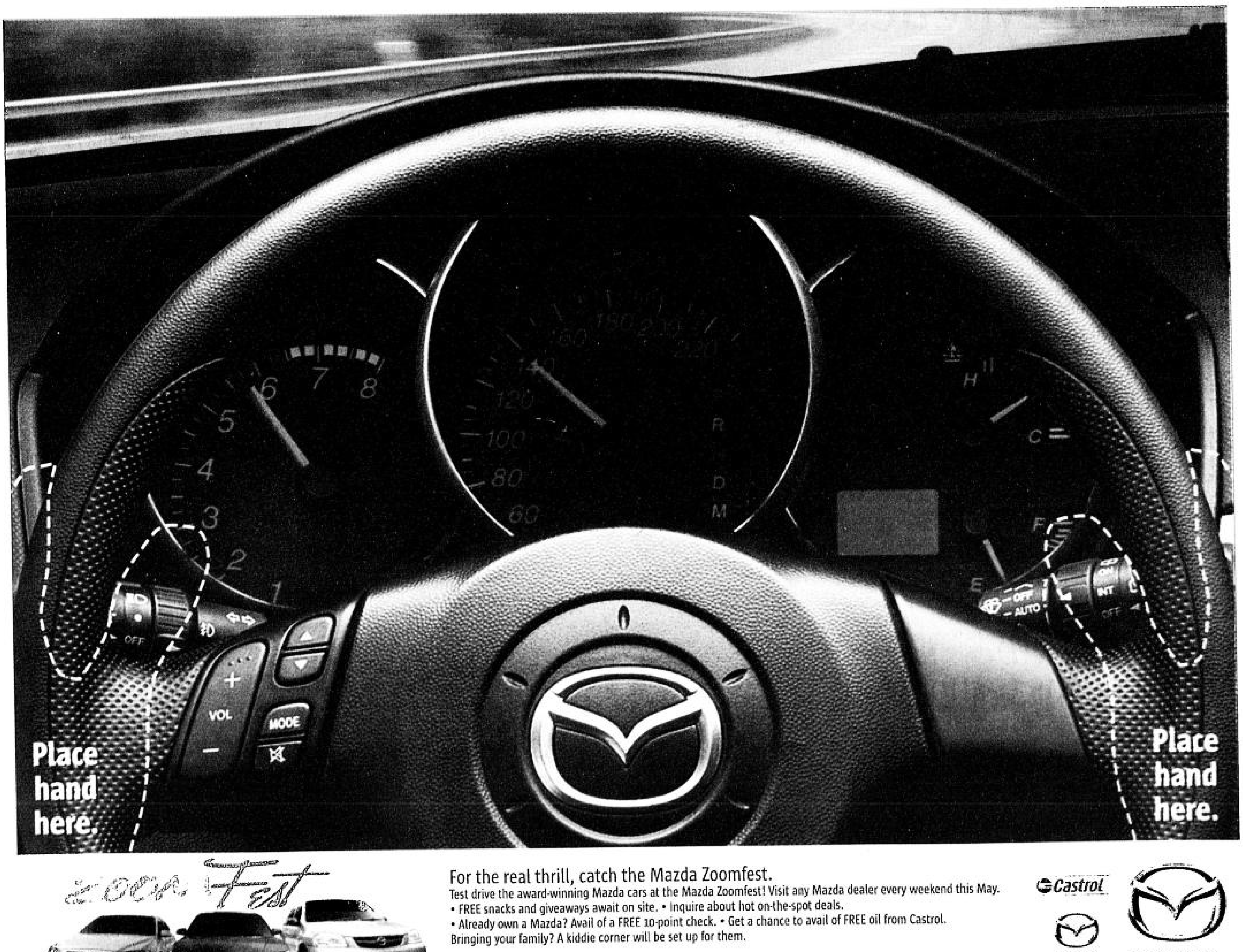
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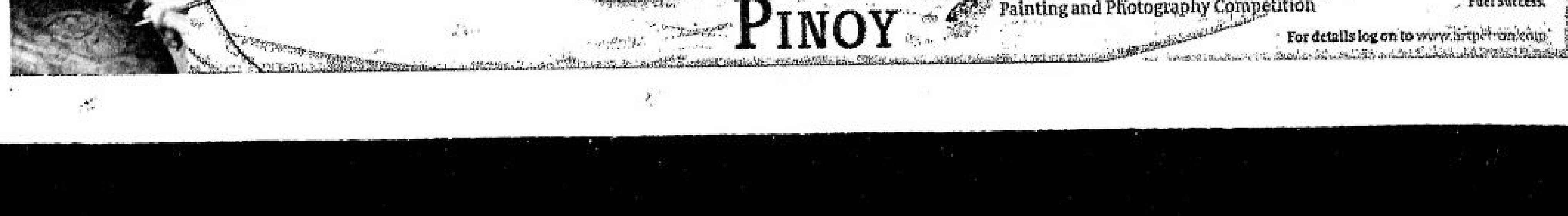
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Colombia forces draw with RP in fourth round

STANDINGS After Round 4:

Men: 13.5—Russia, Armenia; 13—Netherlands; 12.5—Uzbekistan; 12-Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, Bulgaria; 11.5—India, China, Georgia, United States; 11—Greece, Argentina, Romania, Iceland, Vietnam, Iran, Israel, Denmark, Czech Republic, Croatia, Brazil, Cuba; 10.5—Mexico, Germany, Switzerland, Hungary, Turkey, Slovakia, Belarus; 10—Colombia, Serbia & Montenegro, Belgium, Scotland, Egypt, Moldova, Azerbaijan, Poland, Italy A, Macedonia, France, Slovenia, Algeria; 9.5—Kazakhstan, England, Finland, Norway, Ireland, Chile, Portugal, Canada, Philippines, Lithuania, Estonia, Turkmenistan

Women: 11.5—Russsia; 10—Ukraine; 9.5—Bulgaria, United States, China; 9—Hungary, Estonia, Romania, Lithuania, Spain; 8.5—Israrel, Mongolia, Vietnam, Slovakia, Armenia, Greece, India . . . 6.5—Philippines, Macedonia, Croatia, England, and 15 other teams.

By Roy Luarca

TURIN, ITALY—IN 24 HOURS, THEIR brilliant forms vanished.

Pitted against lower-rated foes, Grandmasters Mark Paragua, Eugene Torre and Rogelio Antonio failed to find winning lines Thursday as the Philippines settled for a 2-2 tie with Colombia in the fourth round of the 37th Chess Olympiad at the Olympic Village here.

Their tame performances were in stark contrast to the Filipinos' impressive fighting draws against American super GMs Gata Kamsky, Alexander Onischuk and Hikaru Nakamura in round 3.

Whiz kid Wesley So found fellow Fide Master Rafael Mendoza a worthy adversary on board 4 and also agreed to split the point, enabling the Colombians to improve on the 2.5-1.5 beating dealt them by the Filipinos in the 2004 Calvia Olympiad.

The 12-year-old So, an incoming high school freshman at St. Francis-Bacoor, accepted Mendoza's draw offer in 28 moves of a Bishop opening.

The Filipinas, on the other hand, continued their roller-coaster ride, bowing to Kazahkstan, 2.5-0.5, and dropping to a share of 47th to 60th places with 6.5 points.

Handling black, Paragua first rejected International Maser Alexander Curatas' draw offer only to accept it after 52 moves of their Sicilian-Nadjorf variation tussle.

Even with white, Torre couldn't gain ground against IM Alder Escobar and agreed to a draw after 32 moves of a Slav defense.

Antonio, on the other hand, had to fend off FM Sergio Barrientos' attack before they drew in 32 moves of a French-Winawer variation.

Their second draw gave the Filipinos, 9.5 points, good for a share of 45th to 57th places in the record men's field of 146 teams being lorded over by the Russians and the Armenians with 13.5 points each.

In round 2, 35th-seeded Philippines also drew with Luxembourg after blanking Mauritius, 4-0, in round 1. The Filipinos then yielded to the Americans, 2.5-1.5.

In round 5 on Thursday the Filipinos will tangle with the dangerous Lithuanians, who are ranked 39th.

Aware of their foes' strength, men's team captain Sammy Estimo decided to deploy his full force, returning Paragua, Torre and Antonio and recalling two-time national champion Darwin Laylo on board 4.

Paragua will face GM Eduardas Rozentalis, Torre will meet GM Vidmantas Malisauskas while Antonio will tackle IM Darius Zagorskis.

"The Lithuanians are a veteran team and are strong on all boards," said Estimo. "We can't afford to take chances."

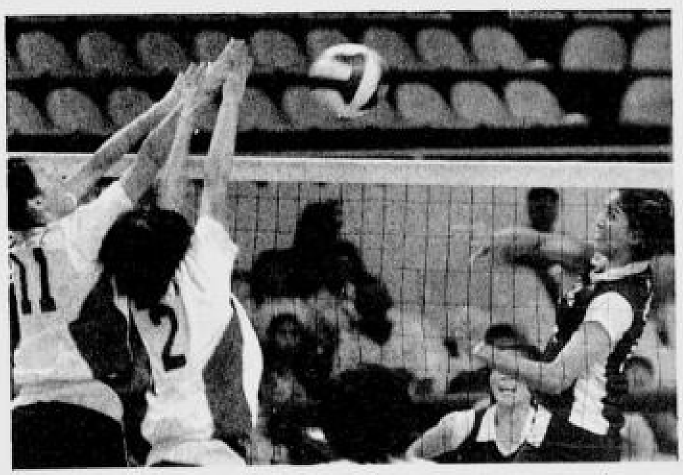
The Filipinas get the chance to improve on their standing when they tangle with Italy B, rated 70th.

Women's team captain Cesar Caturla opted to rest WIM Sheerie Joy Lomibao, fielding in Catherine Perena, Sherily Cua and WIM Beverly Mendoza in that order.

Perena will tackle Maria Teresa Araneta, Cua will battle Veronka Goi and Mendoza will tangle with Marianna Chierici.

Apart from the Russia-Armenia tussle, the India-China showdown will be another featured match of round 5.

The 13-round Swiss system biennial event takes a break Friday.



ACCEL-PHILIPPINES' Cherry Rose Macatangay's spike goes smack onto the Chinese-Taipei defense put up by Lin Ching (11) and Lin Chun-yi. RYAN LIM

Chinese Taipei too tough for RP volleybelles

By Jasmine W. Payo

WITH UNNERVING ease, Chinese Taipei overwhelmed the Philippines, 25-18, 25-13, 25-15, to grab a share of the lead in the 2006 Asian Women's Club volleyball championship yesterday at the Rizal Coliseum.

Chen Mei-ching scored seven kills out of her nine total points, while Lin Ching-i also had nine, including two aces in Chinese-Taipei's victory.

The Taiwanese crew, composed of high school and college students from the Chun San school club, cruised to its second straight win after beating Kazakhstan in the opener of the week-long tournament.

"I think the Philippine team performed well, but maybe it's their lack of experience," said Taiwanese coach Lin Kuang-hung through an interpreter.

In the second match, Zhang Ziqian unloaded a match-high 13 kills and six blocks as defending champion China easily won over tournament rookie Indonesia, 25-13, 25-13, 25-13, for a 2-0 record.

Kazakhstan downed Japan, 25-20, 25-22, 26-24, in the nightcap.

STANDINGS	W	L
C-Taipei	2	0
China	2	0
Philippines	1	1
Kazakhstan	1	1
Thailand	0	1
Japan	0	1
Indonesia	0	2

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Coliseum)
2 p.m.—Sangsom (Thailand) vs Garuda (Indonesia)
4 p.m.—Accel (RP) vs Hisamitsu Seiyaku Springs (Japan)
6 p.m.—Tianjin Bridgestone (China) vs Chun Shan (C-Taipei)

Team captain Olga Grushko delivered nine kills and three blocks to lead the Kazakhs to their first victory in two games.

Veteran spiker Cherry Rose Macatangay finished with six kills and one ace to pace Team Accel Philippines.

"Our movements were tentative," said Philippine coach Constante Reyes. "There was a stretch in the game when we were able to keep up, but then we'd lose confidence again."

The Philippines, which dropped to 1-1, opened its campaign with a victory over Indonesia, 26-24, 25-13, 26-24, Wednesday.

The Philippines kept pace at 6-6 in the opening minutes of the final set before Chinese-Taipei quickly pulled away with eight consecutive points for a 14-6 lead.

Capitalizing on their opponents' errors, the Philippines inched within five at 18-13. But that's the closest they would get as the 2004 tournament champs regained their form.

After claiming the opener at 25-18, Chinese-Taipei didn't look back, hammering home six straight kills to take a 6-0 lead in the second set.

Asuncion siblings save day for Pinoy shuttlers

Tough foes whip RP bets

By Marc Anthony Reyes

KENNIE AND KENNEVIC ASUNCION MORE THAN MADE UP FOR A string of Filipino losses yesterday by pounding out an overwhelming 21-13, 21-19 triumph over their Japanese foes to barge into the mixed doubles quarterfinals of the Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open badminton championship at the Philsports.

While other RP hopefuls fell all around them in the face of superior foreign opposition, the Asuncions provided a bright spot for the hosts' campaign by outplaying Jun Takemura and Yasuyo Imabeppu.

The Asuncions, who won a bronze medal in the Vietnam 2003 Southeast Asian Games, advanced against the Indonesian pair of Puri Setyo and Lili Wang.

"We tried to play the game a little faster and force them to commit errors," said Kennevic, who peppered the Japanese weak side with powerful jump smashes. "We were able to execute our game plan very well."

The Filipinos unloaded a barrage of shots at Imabeppu, forcing her away from the net and deep in the baseline where her teammate was already having a tough time with her returns.

The excitement, though, of finally nailing a win seemed to get the better of the brother-and-sister team as the two wasted four match-point opportunities while leading 20-15 in the second set.

"Maybe it's because we were very eager to win the match in front of our countrymen and committed errors in the process," said the 29-year-old Kennie.

But Kennevic finally closed the deal with a feathery crosscourt slice that sent Takemura on his knees and the Filipino crowd on its feet.

Setyo and Wang bundled out Thais Nattapon Naktong and Duang-Anong Arunkesorn, 21-15, 18-21, 21-17.

Earlier in the men's singles, Kennevic Asuncion gave everything he's got before losing to Hong Kong's Chan Yan-kit, 18-21, 15-21.

Chan, the world's No. 35 in singles, worked on Asuncion's weak backhand, forcing seven straight unforced errors from the Filipino.

The Filipino, ranked 230th in world singles, said he's rusty since it was only his second foreign tournament of the year.

"His shots were too strong, sometimes I had to dodge them," said the 26-year-old Asuncion in Filipino.

"He's very sharp and he was able to read my game better."

Filipino Jaime Junio also went the same way but not after a stiff fight, losing to Arvin Bhat of India, 16-21, 13-21.

The short and stocky Junio opened with smashes that seemed to surprise the taller Bhat. But it turned out the Indian was only sizing him up and patiently cut the Filipino down to size from the baseline.

Junio later paired with Irene Chiu in the mixed doubles and took a 15-21, 4-21 beating from top seed Songpol Anukritayawan and Kunchala Vorawichitchaikul of Thailand.

Men's singles top seed Hashim Hafiz of Malaysia, ranked 11th in the world, hacked out a 16-21, 21-17, 21-11 over Vietnam's Nguyen Quang Minh to advance to the third round. Second seed Ng Wei of Hong Kong overcame Italy's Klaus Raffeiner, 21-14, 16-21, 21-17.

KENNEVIC Asuncion (left) hits a behind-the-back return as sister Kennie provides cover in their match against their Japanese rivals. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Ardina opens 6-shot lead

SINGAPORE—DOTTIE ARDINA moved on the threshold of a regional crown when she carded a two-over-par 74 yesterday to pull away by six strokes in girls' Class C (11-12 years old) after the penultimate round of the Asia-Pacific Junior Golf Championships here. Ardina had a 36-hole aggregate of 145 after an opening round of one-under 71 at the Island course of the exclusive Singapore Island Country Club to lead Moriya Jutanugan of Thailand by six going into today's final round. Bino dela Paz was also tied for the lead in boys' Class C after the first round but play was halted in his division due to a thunderstorm. Gino Bunyi was the best-placed Filipino in the boys' division after a 75-221. Miko Yee had a 78 and was at 224 while Wolen Superal had a 77 for 228. Bambee dela Paz had a 76 for 148 in girls' Class A.

SPORTSWATCH

PCCA cocker of the year known today

THE EXPLOSIVE BATTLE FOR THE PASAY COCKPIT COCKERS ASSOCIATION (PCCA) Cocker of the Year title resumes at 6 p.m. today at Pasay City Cockpit with 60 matches on tap and with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. The Cocker of the Year will be known today. Pol Estrellado (PEBL Sta. Cruz) leads the race with 19.5 points but closely trailing him are Ric de Guzman and Gov. Ito Ynares (Coffee King Binangonan, 19). Others in the top five are Dodie Villarubio (RAV 4, 17); Jack Chung (Union Gamefarm, 15) and Frankie Uy (TBF, 13.5). For inquiries, call 843-1890 or 843-1746.

Roligon 5-cocker stakes P1.5 million

A PRIZE POT OF P1.5 MILLION IS AT STAKE IN THE "KAYANG-KAYA 5-COCK Derby" on May 30, June 1 and 3 at Roligon Mega Cockpit. Participants, especially those from the provinces, must submit entries with weight limits of 1.8 kgs. to 2.4 kgs. on Monday. Host Rolly Ligon pegged the entry fee at only P7,700 and minimum bet at P4,400. Ligon said the fastest-win champion will drive home a three-door Pajero automatic. Meanwhile, the National Cockers Association (NCA) 8-Cock International Derby will be held at the same venue on May 29, 31 and June 2.

Richest ever Triple Crown at SLLP

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE MUCH-AWAITED TRIPLE CROWN SERIES, the richest ever horseracing event for three-year-olds, kicks off this Sunday at the plush San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite, with the staging of the Cojuangco Cup.

Covering 1,600 meters, the first leg will be held in honor of Ambassador Eduardo Cojuangco, founding chair of the Philippine Racing Commission. It offers a fat paycheck of P1.2 million for the champion while the other prizes are P450,000 for second; P250,000 for third; P110,000 for fourth; and P120,000 for the winning breeder.

Pre-series favorite Juggernaut, the sensational juvenile champion, will not be a starter following an operation to remove bone spurs on his front legs, leaving this year's Triple Crown affair a wide open series.

Still, racing experts are picking—based on newfound form and his most recent record—Don Exequiel, a never-say-die chestnut colt, to win the opening leg and, quite possibly, sweep this year's Triple Crown series, which also includes the Ongpin Cup, which will be longer at 1,800 meters and the Horseman's Cup, the third and last leg and the longest at the lung-busting 2,050 meters. Also expected to figure prominently are tough and tested King's Dominion and Special Edition.

In the recent second leg of the Road to the Triple Crown Series held at the SLLP, Don Exequiel, ridden by jockey Ronald Baldonido, easily won the 1,600-meter race with a time of 1 minute 41 seconds, just two seconds off the record of 1:39 set by stablemate Real Spicy during the third leg of last year's Triple Crown race.

"Considering that Don Exequiel came off a long layoff, it was indeed an impressive triumph," said proud owner sportsman Hermie Esguerra, horse racing's leading money earner this year. "That win was a tribute to my team, headed by trainer Jojo Panlilio."

King's Dominion, piloted by jockey Jeffril Zarate, finished second, some five lengths behind the winner while top favorite Special Edition, booted in by jockey Dominador Borbe Jr., checked in a poor third.

"We should have more events such as the Triple Crown races," said a longtime racing fan from Bulacan. "The races are worth watching."

* * *

ALL ABOUT THE FIFA WORLD CUP: After 32 years, the World Cup of football returns to Germany June 9-July 10. The country first hosted the event in 1974. The Germans were champions in 1954 when they beat the highly favored Hungarian team; in 1974 when they defeated a fine Dutch side captained by the legendary Johann Cruyff; and in 1990 when they edged out Argentina and thus completed their own hat-trick of three World Cup titles. But Brazil leads the championship tally with five World Cup championships.

It won in 1958, the year it introduced a 17-year-old player called Pele, considered the greatest football player Brazil had ever produced; 1962, 1970, 1994 and 2002. In 1950, Brazil hosted the World Cup for the first time and built a special stadium, the mighty Maracana, which can accommodate 200,000 spectators.

In that 1950 final, underdog Uruguay upset Brazil. Three fans died of heart attacks on hearing the result of the match on radio and three more in the subsequent celebration.

Argentina, not Brazil, will win the 2006 World Cup, according to the experts. England is also a team to reckon with. Featuring 32 teams around the world, the matches will be held at high-tech football fields located in several cities spread across Germany, including Berlin, Frankfurt, Nuremberg, Cologne and Stuttgart.

Argentina won the World Cup in 1978 and 1986, the year it paraded superstar Diego Maradona as its captain. Italy became the third country together with West Germany to win the World Cup three times, bagging the coveted Jules Rimet trophy in 1934, 1938 and 1982.

In 1982, the Italian team started on the wrong foot but bounced back and made the final where the star of the show, striker Paolo Rossi, scored his sixth goal of the tournament as the West Germans were badly beaten, 3-1.

In 1986, Colombia stepped down as host in the face of the expenses required to organize a new format, which increased the number of entries from 16 to 24. Instead, the 1986 tourney went to Mexico, which adopted the new format by putting on a soccer spectacular watched by a record television audience of 13 billion.

Strange fires 68, leads by 1 shot

From page A27

teurs, shooting 73s to be 21-man tie at 25th spot along with countrymen Richard Sinfuego, 2000 winner and last year's second placer, Gerald Rosales and veteran Danny Zarate.

Among the biggest Fipino disappointments were Jerome Delariarte (76), Richard Sinfuego (78) Antonio Lascuña (78), Cassius Casas (79) and Carito Villaroman (84).

The first-round scores:

68—S. Strange (Aus); 69—Lu WL (Tpe), Yeh CT (Tpe), S. Nash (Aus), B. Hume (Aus); 70—C. Rodgers (Eng), R. Gibson (Can), C. La'O, J. Dawes (Aus), K. Chun (Aus); 71—M. Keegan (Aus), G. Simpson (Aus), A. Murakami, A. Que, A Blyth (Aus), Hsieh CS (Tpe); 72—M. Maritz (SA), J. Pagunsan, A. Kang (US), Soe KN (Bur), M. Pucay, Park UH (SK), J. Lupprian (Ger), R. Ismail (Mal); 73—Chen CH (Tpe), M. Both (Aus), C. Warren (Aus), D. Zarate, T. Yoshikawa (Jpn), G. Sinfuego, Poh EW (Sin), S. Hurd (Eng), Lam CB (Sin), G. Rosales, A. R. Zahari (Mal), H. Perks (Aus), G. Rusnak (US), M. Dumandan (a), G. Mann (Ind), G. Bondoc (a), R. Lee (NZ), J. Knutzon (US), A. Presnell (Aus), A. Porker (Aus), M. Sadidaran (Mal), A. Brown (Aus)

Tigers tackle Pals seeking q'final berth

COCA-COLA SEEKS THE THIRD AND LAST outright quarterfinal seat when the Tigers collide with the slumping Talk 'N Text Phone Pals at the end of the Gran Matador-PBA Philippine Cup classification round today at the Ynares Center.

STANDINGS	W	L
Purefoods	12	4
San Miguel	11	5
Red Bull	9	6
Alaska	9	7
Coca-Cola	7	8
Air21	7	9
Ginebra	6	9
Talk 'N Text	5	10
Sta. Lucia	4	12

GAMES TODAY
(*Ynares Center*)
4:40 p.m.—Coca-Cola vs Talk 'N Text
7:35 p.m.—Ginebra vs Red Bull

The Tigers, with a 7-8 record, can join Red Bull and Alaska in the quarters with a victory in their 4:40 p.m. clash with the Phone Pals, who are bidding to end a six-game losing streak.

A Coca-Cola loss would pave the way for the entry of Air21 as the third quarterfinalist due to a higher quotient with the Tigers being relegated to the wildcard phase in the company of the Phone Pals, the Barangay Ginebra Kings and the Sta. Lucia Realtors.

Air21 earlier finished at 7-9 following a 110-98 win over San Miguel Beer Wednesday. Ginebra then blew its slim quarterfinal hopes by taking a 98-95 loss to Alaska in the second game.

The wildcard stage is a single roundrobin with the survivor moving up to face Red Bull in a best-of-five quarterfinal duel. The other quarterfinal pairing will pit Alaska against either Air21 or Coca-Cola.

The Bulls (9-6) clash with the defending champion Kings (6-9) in a no-bearing game at 7:35 tonight.

The Tigers, the hottest team early in the series, are seeking to stretch the six-game slide of the Phone Pals to seven, the longest losing streak so far in the conference.

Hounded by inconsistent play after acquiring Renren Ritualo and Don Allado in a recent trade deal, the Phone Pals (5-10) are desperate to halt their slide and boost their morale for the wildcard phase.

Purefoods (12-4) and San Miguel Beer (11-5) have earlier advanced outright to the best-of-seven semifinal series after winding up first and second after the elimination round.

The Giants will meet the winner between the fourth-ranked Alaska Aces and the fifth-seeded team in the quarterfinals while the Beermen will battle either No. 3 Red Bull or the survivor in the wildcard round. *June Navarro*

Suns steal march on Mavs in West

THE SUNS' Shawn Marion dunks off Mavs star Dirk Nowitzki and guard Jerry Stackhouse (front). REUTERS

DALLAS, TEXAS—STEVE NASH DIRECTED A late comeback capped by Boris Diaw's basket with half a second left that gave Phoenix a 121-118 National Basketball Association playoff win over Dallas on Wednesday.

The thrilling triumph put the Suns 1-0 up in the best-of-seven Western Conference finals.

France's Diaw scored a career-high 34 points and Nash added 27 and 16 assists for the second-seeded Suns, who looked tired at times but relied on their resiliency and won a road game for the third straight series.

The Mavericks led by nine points with less than four minutes to play, but couldn't close it out.

The series opener was a continuation of the nail-biters that have pervaded the postseason.

It was Phoenix's fifth game decided by less than three points or in overtime.

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, the Detroit Pistons seek redemption in Game 2 of their series with the Miami Heat, which beat them 91-86, in the Eastern Conference finals opener.

A driving three-point play by Devin Harris, who scored a career-high 30 points on 12-of-17 shooting, gave the Mavericks a 114-105 lead with 3:43 to go. But Dallas relaxed, and Nash, the NBA MVP for the second straight season, pounced.

Nash takes charge

Nash scored Phoenix's next 10 points, making two free throws and a 3-pointer before going underneath good friend Dirk Nowitzki for a difficult layup and over him for a 3-pointer that cut the deficit to 116-115 with 1:04 remaining.

On Phoenix's next possession, Nash ran a pick-and-roll with Shawn Marion, who dunked for the lead with 43 seconds left.

The teams traded possessions before Harris made a 17-footer from the right wing, giving the Mavericks a 118-117 lead with 4.8 seconds to play.

After a timeout, Tim Thomas inbounded to Diaw, who had gotten deep position on Jerry Stackhouse and made a turnaround 10-footer from the right baseline. The play was supposed to go to Nash, but he wasn't open.

"Boris was amazing," Nash said. "He's just getting better and better. And he's doing it on a big stage now."

After Marquis Daniels threw away the inbounds pass, Thomas sealed it with two free throws.

"Everything went wrong that could go wrong," said Nowitzki, who finished with 25 points and 19 rebounds. "Our execution was horrible. It's a tough way to start a series at home."

"We were just bad tonight in a lot of different areas, and we have to improve in a hurry," said Mavericks coach Avery Johnson. "For Nash, it was too easy. Diaw—too easy. They're good players, but we can't make it that easy for them."

Lost to injuries

Both teams lost key players to injuries. The Mavs' Josh Howard suffered a sprained right ankle midway through the first quarter and did not return.

Suns guard Raja Bell suffered a left calf strain midway through the final period and was carried off the court. *AFP*

- SOLAR SPORTS

8 a.m.—Miami vs. Detroit (replay @ 8 p.m.)

Portmasters rip Tortillos, reach semis

GAMES TOMORROW (*Olivarez Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—Montana vs Harbour Centre
4 p.m.—Toyota Otis vs Rain or Shine

By Jasmine W. Payo

LED BY A LETHAL BACKCOURT TRIO, Harbour Centre overcame Granny Goose's twice-to-beat advantage with a 73-60 victory to grab the last semifinal berth in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

Chico Lanete and Joseph Yeo combined for 31 points, while playmaker LA Tenorio finished with 13 markers, six assists and three steals as the Portmasters completed a vengeful "double kill."

"Maybe it's because of our last game that we got the intensity today," said coach Jorge Gallent, citing the Portmasters' 59-51 triumph over the Tortillos that extended the quarterfinal series last Tuesday.

"We won two straight games that's why the morale of the team is high right now."

League leader Toyota Otis will tackle defending champion Rain or Shine, while second-seeded Montaña will face Harbour Centre separate best-of-five Final Four series starting tomorrow.

Jett Latonio and JR Quinahan rallied the Tortillos within seven points, 61-54, with 3:48 minutes left in the fourth period after trailing, 44-20, at the half.

The run, though, fizzled out as Yeo and Lanete nailed clutch free throws to restore the lead to 72-57.

The Tortillos, who finished third in the elimination to earn the twice-to-beat incentive, looked overwhelmed after the Portmasters jumped to an 18-8 start in the first period behind Yeo and Tenorio.

Then Lanete and Jec Chia turned up the heat in the second canto to give Harbour Centre a comfortable 44-20 buffer.

The scores:

HARBOUR CENTRE 73—Lanete 16, Yeo 15, Tenorio 13, Chia 9, Gaco 6, Gamboa 5, Reyes 5, Maierhofer 4, Saguindel 0, Arana 0.

GRANNY GOOSE 60—Quinahan 21, Latonio 17, Cruz 9, Grijaldo 4, Santos 4, Allad 3, Ibnes 2, Ferrer 0, Saldua 0, Concha 0, Dela Peña 0.

Quarters: 18-8, 44-20, 50-37, 73-60

Shell karting back at old Carmona track

THE RACE FOR THE MAJOR TITLES SHIFTS to high gear when the 2006 Shell-Cali Superkarting Series returns to the Carmona Circuit Philippines in Cavite for the third leg this weekend.

With all the karters familiar with the track, experts predict a lot would depend mainly on talent, strategy and breaks.

Talented young drivers Javi Benitez and Paolo Gonzales look forward to another big feat following their impressive finishes in the last leg of this series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell Helix, San Miguel Corp., Denso Iridium Power, Honda Phils. Eastway Company, Aeromed Ambulance Transport and official tires Yokohama Kart Tires.

Benitez, the lead driver of Jet Racing Team, seeks to show up rival John Alvarez of the Cebu Racing Group again in the ROK Junior race.

Alvarez appeared headed for a win in the last leg but Benitez spoiled his bid with a quick maneuver as they approached the finish line.

Gonzales, another protégé of Jet Racing, also hopes to rule the Mini ROK division anew with tough challenge expected from Franco Reyes.

Preakness winner skipping Belmont

NEW YORK—PREAKNESS WINNER BERNARDINI, who won the second jewel of the Triple Crown on Saturday by 5-1/4 lengths, will miss next month's Belmont Stakes, Darley Stable announced on Wednesday.

Handlers of Bernardini said in a statement that the colt should be rested after having three races over a short period of time, in what was another blow to the Triple Crown series.

The Belmont will be run on June 10. *Reuters*

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Bold Water (1), Chabacana (2), Virgin Island (6), Balang Kalookan (5)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Fanciful (6), Yacuy (3), Ideal Gaza (4), Virgin Hill (7)
Race 3—(Tri)—Stoops (5), Iron Heart (1), Virginia (4)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Red Storm (6), Uncle (5), Golden Harry (6), Deep Pocket (3), Torvalac (8)
Race 5—(Tri)—Armidale (4), Hazmagic (5), Cebuana Spell (3)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Awesome Power (6), Scene Stealer (1) Royal Rose (5), Cuadro De Alas (4)
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Zaniga (5), Reigns Supreme (5), Striker (4), U Are My Sunshine (7)
Race 8—(Qrt/Tri)—Dow Jones/Please Don't Stop (6), Full Of Fury (7), Ilocos Pride (5), Flaming Heart (4)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Ravishing Rally (4), Exploiter (6), Cool Operator (1), Wrecking Ball (8), Zero Gravity (7), Medal's Time (2)

Maradona: Argentina, Spain can stun Brazil

MARADONA

MADRID, SPAIN—Diego Maradona said Wednesday he dreams of coaching Argentina in the future, and believes both Spain and his native country will provide Brazil with tough competition at the World Cup.

Maradona made the remarks at a press conference where he announced that he would comment on World Cup matches for Spanish TV broadcaster Cuatro.

"I dream of being the coach of the Argentine squad," Maradona said. "It's something that I would really like and I will fight to become the national coach.

"It's something that I owe to myself. It would be the icing on the cake for my career. It would be great."

The Argentine great said Spain and Argentina will be tough contenders for Brazil—a five-time World Cup champion.

"Argentina and Spain are just below Brazil in the ranking," Maradona said.

Maradona also praised Brazil midfielder Ronaldinho. "It's always a pleasure to see him playing and I also like him very much as a person," Maradona said.

Maradona was chosen by Fifa in 2000 as the greatest player in soccer history along with Brazil's Pele. *AP*

FOOTBALLER of the Year Ronaldinho Gaucho (left) stretches with teammate Juninho as coach Carlos Alberto Perreira (right) gestures. World Cup favorite Brazil started its two-week training camp Wednesday in Switzerland. AFP

3 World Cup teams struggle

NEW YORK—WORLD CUP PREPARATIONS started slow for Paraguay and Ecuador. They were even slower for Costa Rica.

Paraguay and Ecuador allowed second-half goals and had to settle for draws Wednesday to begin their final run to Germany, while Costa Rica allowed a goal in each half and fell 2-0 to a Catalonia select side.

Ecuador held a lead for only three minutes, disappointing an overwhelming partisan crowd of 52,425 in New York in a 1-1 draw with Colombia.

Playing with four of its regulars on the bench and in what appeared to be an experimental 4-3-3 formation, Ecuador took the lead in the 52nd minute when Segundo Castillo ran onto an attempted clearance attempt by Haydee Palacio and drove a shot from the edge of the area.

Colombia responded three minutes later when Elkin Soto received a ball at the top of the Ecuadorean area and launched a left-footer that beat keeper Christian Mora inside the right post.

"I believe that we are not biting enough up front," Ecuador manager Luis Fernando said. "I think we need to work on that."

Frode Johnsen scored his second goal of the game in the 61st minute and Norway rallied to tie Paraguay 2-2 in Oslo.

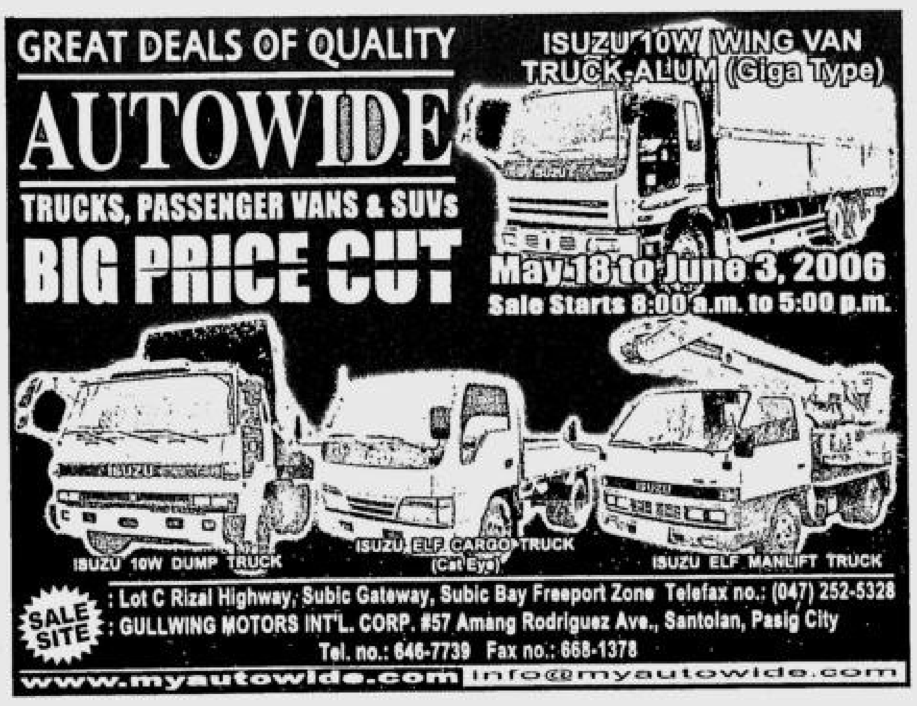
Johnsen also scored in the 22nd minute, heading the ball past Paraguay goalkeeper Justo Villar.

Paraguay captain Carlos Gamarra equalized with another header three minutes into the second half, and Nelson Haedo Valdez put Paraguay ahead in the 54th after a long pass from Edgar Barreto.

In Terrassa, Spain, Francisco Medina, who plays for second-division Spanish team Ciudad de Murcia, gave the Catalonia select team the lead in the eighth minute and Roger Garcia added a penalty in the 65th.

In Dublin, Ireland, Manuel Iturra scored his first international goal and Chile won a 1-0 over Ireland, which suffered its first loss under new manager Steve Staunton. *AP*

SPORTS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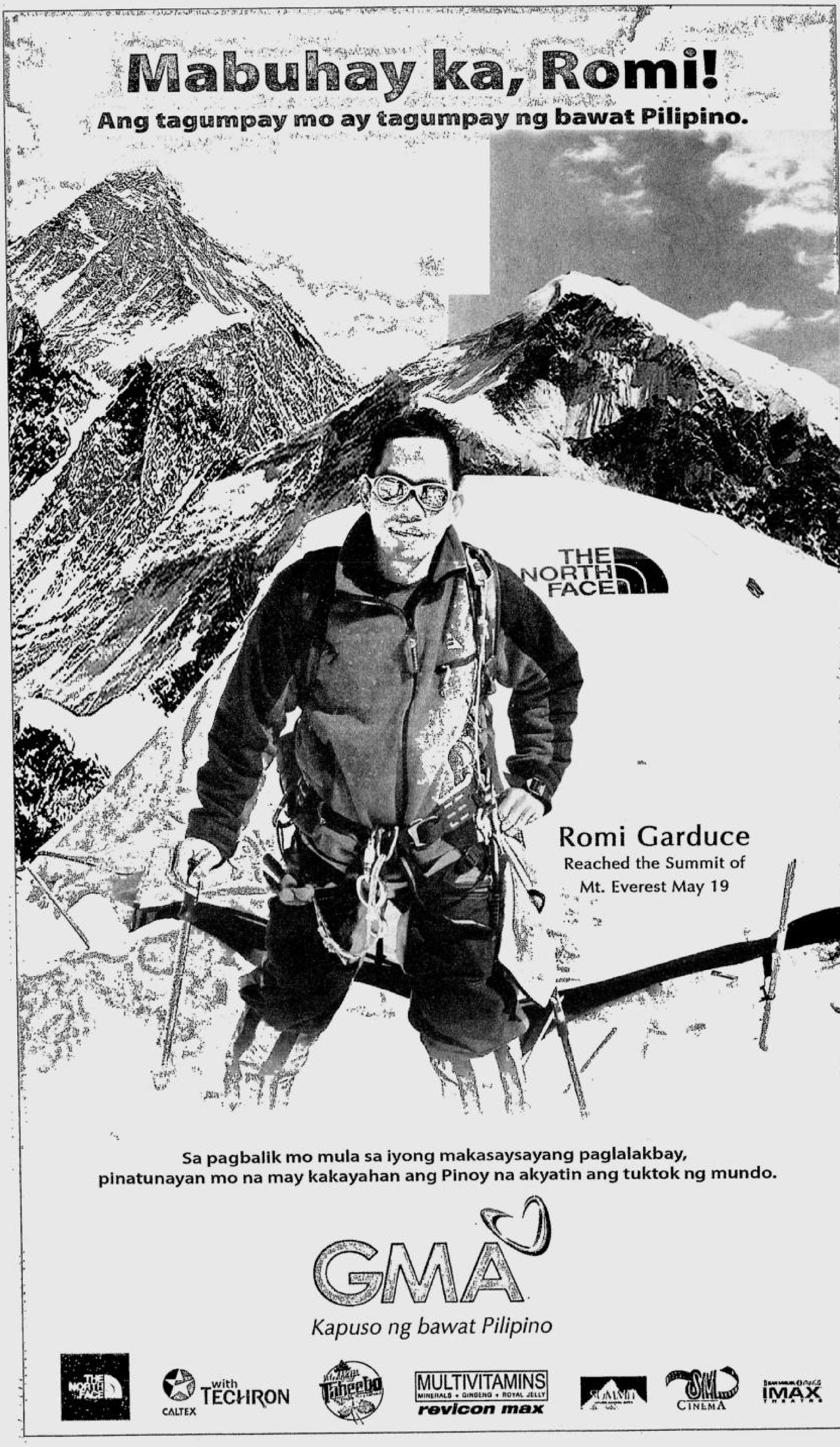
Padyak Pinoy

DR. Lucio Tan (center, in *barong*) whoops it up with members of the victorious Cossack Vodka team during the squad's courtesy call Wednesday afternoon. Members of the team, including coach Renato Dolosa presented their trophy to the business tycoon for dominating the team competition in the recent Tour Pilipinas Tanduay Padyak Pinoy 2006.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Tan keeping Cossack bike team intact

WITH THE COSSACK VODKA "IBANG LIPAD" squad winning the team title of the recent Tour Pilipinas Tanduay Padyak Pinoy bikathon, the Lucio Tan Group of Companies hopes to make its partnership with the country's premier summer cycling marathon even more formidable.

The triumphant Cossack Vodka team will be kept intact, and year-long training and preparations are now being worked out by one of the country's foremost liquor firms.

"We're more than satisfied with what team Cossack Vodka accomplished in the Tour," said Tanduay Distillers CEO Wilson Young.

"This victory only makes us more committed to support the young men who made our ties with the Tour this year very meaningful."

Cossack Vodka, laden with rookies and hardly given notice at the start, defied great odds under the guidance of two-time Tour champion Renato Dolosa (1992, 1995).

The team won the championship by 10 minutes and 36 seconds and secured the P500,000 winner's purse out of the total P2.6 million pot.

A member of the team, Irish Valenzuela, romped off with the Rookie of the Year title.

In a solid show of support, no less than Dr. Lucio Tan was present to congratulate the team members and three back-up men.

Tan accepted the team championship trophy during simple rites Wednesday afternoon in his penthouse suite at the Century Park hotel.

The members of the team are Renato Sambrano, Michael Reyes, Roberto Torres, Nino Jazul, Irish Valenzuela, Leonel Dimaano, Edgar Bollesser, and Eli Camerino with Dante Valdez as mechanic and Raniel Naluz as masseur.

Atienza named Presidential asst. on youth, sports

ATIENZA

MANILA SPORTS Council chair Arnold "Ali" Atienza was recently appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo as Presidential Assistant on Youth and Sports.

The appointment of the 33-year-old son of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza was signed by the President last April 19 and was coursed through Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Presidential Chief of Staff Mike Defensor.

"It is indeed a great honor for me to be able to further contribute to the national youth and sports development agenda of the President," said the young Atienza. "I would like to thank the President for her trust and confidence."

Atienza won the gold medal in the 1994 Asian taekwondo championship.

Ortua turns back Gonzales in squash

VETERAN JAIME ORTUA BANKED ON HIS experience to subdue Beans Gonzales, 9-4, 9-7, 6-9, 9-5, Monday at the start of the SRAP/Milo squash tournament at the Marikina Sports Club courts.

It was the lone match played in Division 1 of the event organized by the Squash Rackets Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Milo.

Dino Aldeguer led winners in Division 2. He whipped Renato Precilo, 9-4, 9-3, 9-6.

The other results:

Jenny Arebado d. Joey Almario, 9-4, 9-5, 9-4; Mike Mill d. Gerald Yanson, 9-7, 9-5, 9-4; Gambi Lichauco d. Garth Beeton, 9-3, 9-5, 9-7; Aiza Dalida d. Willy Enano, 9-0, 9-5, 9-1; SL Lee d. Robin Sanders, 9-2, 9-0, 9-1; Yohoo Villanueva d. Jhonny Villa, 9-1, 9-0, 9-6; Mitch Estella d. Elmer Carillo, 9-2, 9-0, 9-0; Boyong Deles d. Christian Yanson, 9-3, 9-0, 9-3; Nelson Flores d. Mike Mapa, 9-3, 9-2, 10-8; Myca Arebado d. Jessie Lapore, 9-1, 9-5, 9-6; and Ciano Lapore d. Romy Dona, 9-5, 9-6, 9-2.

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

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₱50M and counting for 'Barbell' on TV

By Nini Valera

FIFTY MILLION PESOS AND counting.

This is how much GMA 7 has spent to mount the Mars Ravelo *komiks* classic "Captain Marvel" as a prime time series.

RICHARD Gutierrez in the $50,000 suit ERIK ARAZAS

Rams David, production manager, said most of the budget was spent on special effects and Captain Barbell's costume, designed by Miles Teves, the Hollywood costumer who made the outfits in "Batman Forever," "Robocop," and "Spiderman."

Captain Barbell's costume reportedly cost about $50,000. Director Dominic Zapata said the outfit, updated for the 21st century, was crucial to bringing the beloved *komiks* hero to modern times.

Zapata recounted, by way of explaining: "When I first heard that 'Batman' was being remade—I was still a kid then—I didn't think that would be cool because I had associated the character with Adam West. I vowed not to watch the movie. But when I saw the costumes, I said, 'Hey, this movie is for me; it would entertain me.'"

When it was time to remake "Barbell," Zapata recalled his reaction to the Tim Burton movie… and its fabulous, if sinister-looking, costumes.

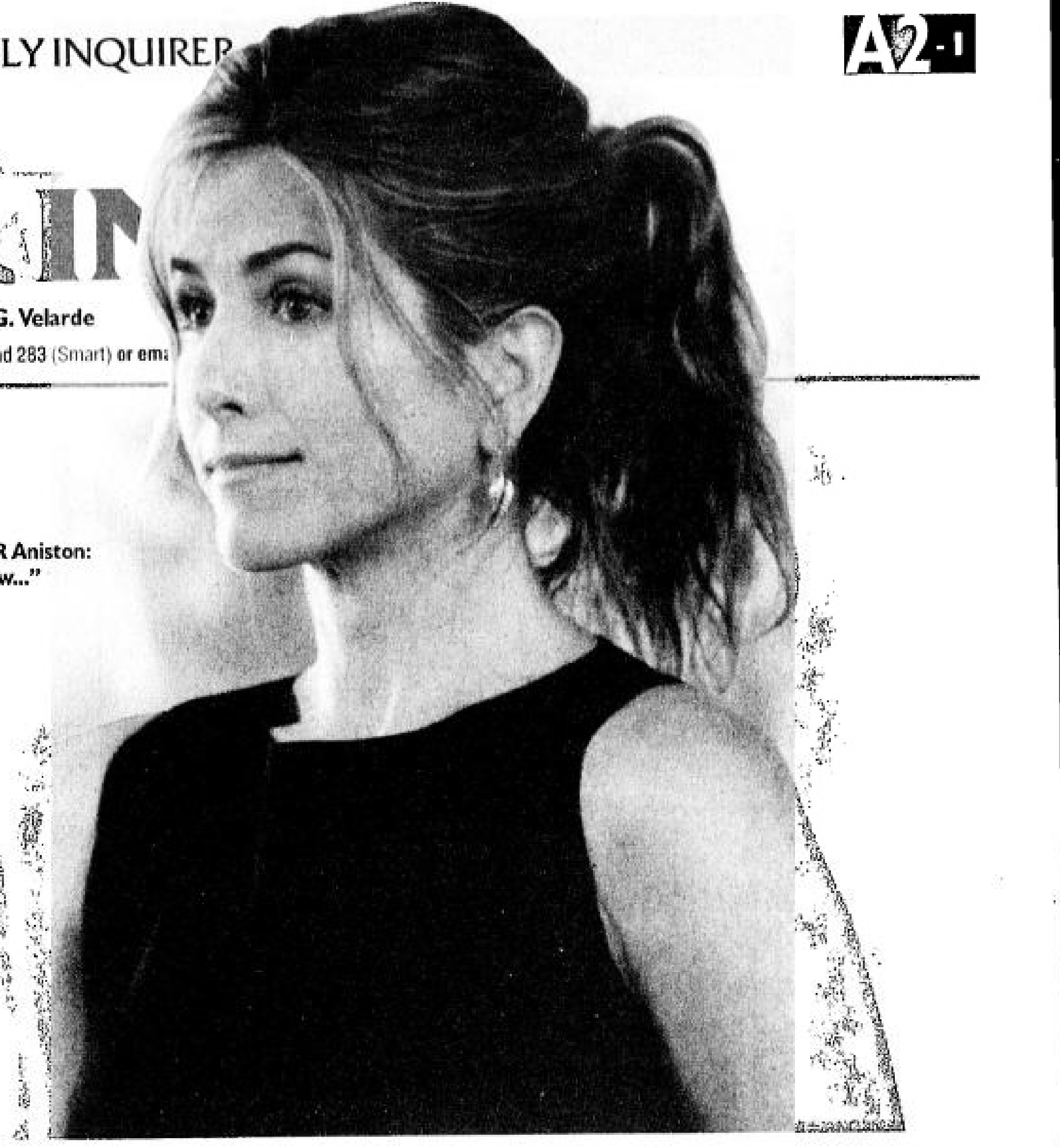
"I suggested that we talk to the one who designed [Batman's] costume," Zapata said. "I said, let's kick ass. When kids see this Captain Barbell, they would cease to think that he's a hero of their Dad's generation, and make him their own."

However, Ravelo's heirs had given their final decision regarding Barbell's look. "We couldn't toy around too much with the costume," Zapata admitted. "They gave the specifications, the colors. They had creative control all the way. We pushed as far as we could."

But the Barbell suit was just one thing, according to Zapata. Technology had a bigger role in taking Barbell to modern times. He described the special effects as cutting edge and "comparable to what you see in Hollywood."

For example, he said, Barbell will no longer fly only in a straight line. "We'll have what is called a digital double—totally computer-animated, so we could make him weave in and out of buildings, fly in a way that [Richard]

P50 M/ A2-6



JENNIFER Aniston: "You know…"

Jennifer Aniston on Vince, Brad and their 'Break-Up'

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—NOT once was Brad Pitt's name mentioned in our recent press con with Jennifer Aniston.

But their much-publicized divorce was the underlying theme of the noontime conversation in Santa Monica's Shutters on the Beach Hotel, especially because the movie she was promoting was titled "The Break-Up."

Relaxed and often amused, Jennifer politely refused to answer only two questions that she deemed were too personal. Otherwise, she did allude to her separation from Brad, referring to it as "you know…" or in some other indirect terms.

The actress was at her funniest and most revealing when she talked about strangers trying to console her. She said the most memorable was a Greek woman. Her father, John Aniston, is of Greek descent (he is an actor himself and appeared on the TV soap, "Days of Our Lives"). Telly Savalas, the late Greek-American actor, was Jennifer's godfather.

Mom to the 37-year-old LA native is Nancy Aniston, who was divorced from John in 1980. "Very happy" is how Jennifer described her current relationship with her parents. She stopped talking to her mother over a period of time twice: when Nancy agreed to be interviewed about Jennifer in a tabloid TV show and again when she penned a book about their relationship.

In this encounter, Jennifer answered questions about her current boyfriend, Vince Vaughn, her leading man in "The Break-Up" who also co-produced and co-

JENNIFER/ A2-5

RPN 9 execs flex muscles

By Marinel R. Cruz

CONCIO

DEL ROSARIO

"IF WE JUST SIT AND WAIT, THERE MAY BE nothing left to sell. We've decided to go full steam ahead."

Thus declared Mia Concio, president of the state-run Radio Philippine Network 9, which is up for privatization this year.

The privatization of sequestered TV stations RPN 9 and IBC 13 was originally set by the Privatization and Management Office (PMO) between March and May. But in March, Finance Undersecretary Gabriel Singson Jr., who monitors the privatization program, said the sale of RPN 9 would have to be deferred until after the network had settled unpaid taxes

RPN/ A2-2

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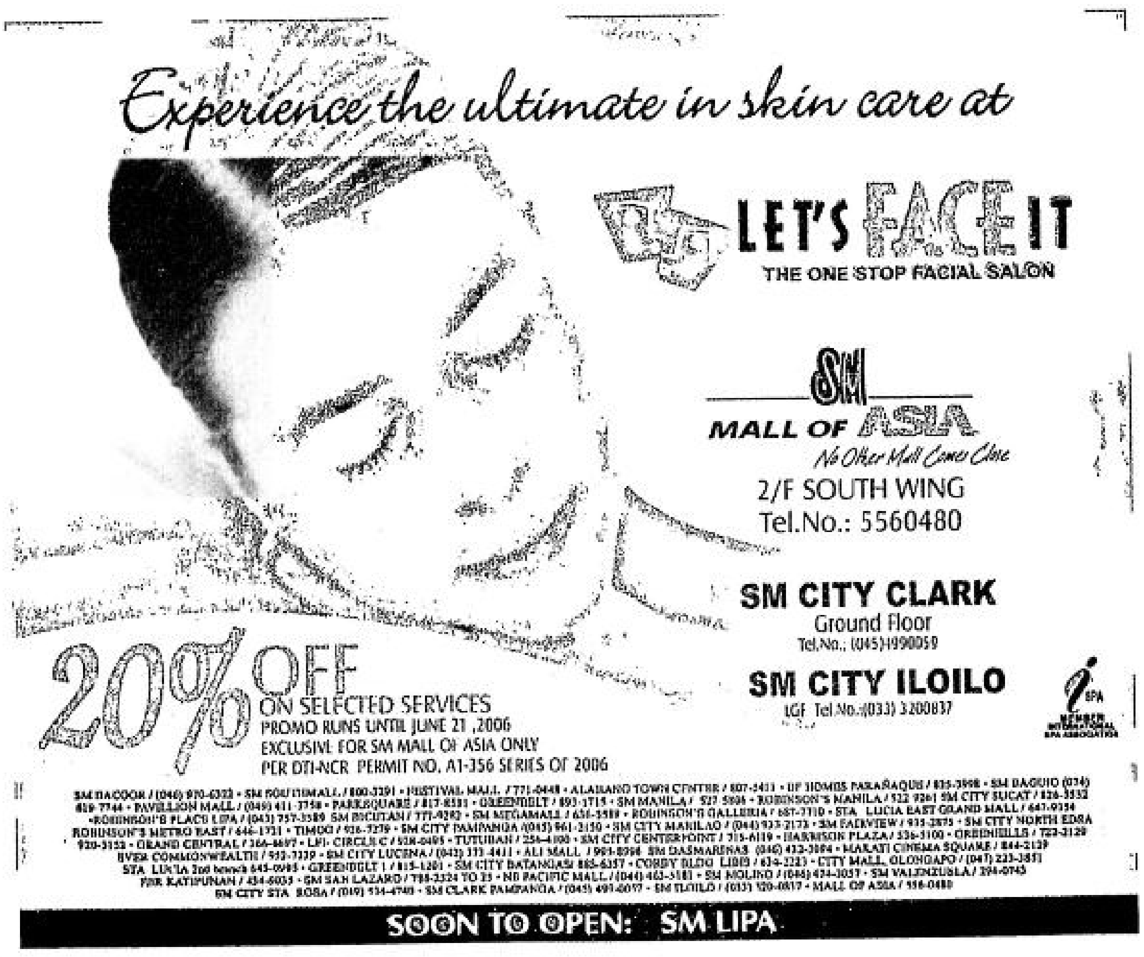

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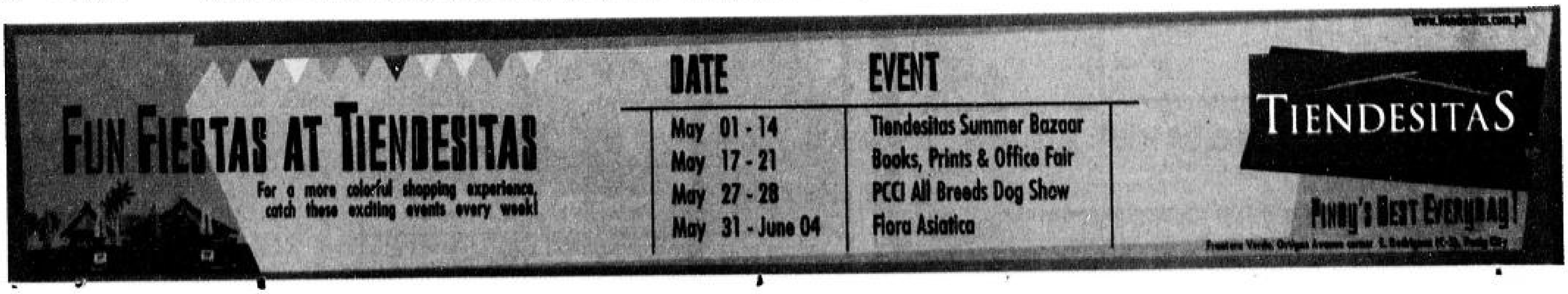

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RPN 9 execs flex muscles

From page A2-1

and addressed labor problems.

"We need to make the station more viable," Concio told INQUIRER Entertainment in an interview at the RPN 9 office in Broadcast City last week. "We want people to know [that], pending privatization, we are beefing up our programming."

Concio is confident that privatization will not get in the way of the reprogramming. "If the shows are good, I'm sure the prospective buyer will take them into consideration," she said.

For women

Concio said RPN was determined to improve prime time programming ("The next two months will be very exciting"), but was also propping up its non-prime time hours with three new shows.

"Make-over" is weekly beauty show for "teenagers, homemakers ages 25 and up, and the 'pink market' from all age brackets," according to Edith del Rosario, assistant general manager for programming.

"Make-over," airs Fridays, 11 a.m. to 12 noon, and is hosted by Eugene Domingo and Shiela Dizon-Carlos.

"For M" is a public service program that links up women with domestic problems and government agencies that can assist them. The show airs Mondays and is hosted by Marigold Haber and Mr. Fu.

Families

"Go Negosyo," hosted by Connie Sison, targets young professionals, aspiring entrepreneurs, housewives and "families on the lookout for alternative livelihood," said Del Rosario. The show premieres June 5 at 10:30 p.m.

"If you notice, we now have programs geared toward the female audience, specifically mothers. In the daytime, it's mostly women who watch television," Concio explained. "At night, we address the male audience by airing sports-oriented shows."

Currently on air are "NBA on RPN" for basketball aficionados, and "WWE Smackdown" and "UFC Specials" for wrestling fans.

According to Concio, Solar Entertainment, which has an existing programming contract with RPN 9, is responsible for the network's primetime hours, or from 6-10 p.m.

Canned

Concio said she recently consulted Solar president William Tieng on how to reprogram said hours.

"Right now, what you see on primetime are basically canned shows that you also see on cable TV. There's nothing wrong with that because those programs already have a captive market," Concio said, "except that for free TV, it might not be a good idea to concentrate on the A and B markets, which usually watch cable shows."

She said the network felt it needed to "tweak" the interest not just of the A and B markets, but also of viewers "on a more mass-based level" with shows that cannot be seen on cable.

"I can't divulge right now what the programming thrust will be. Viewers should watch our for this," said Concio.

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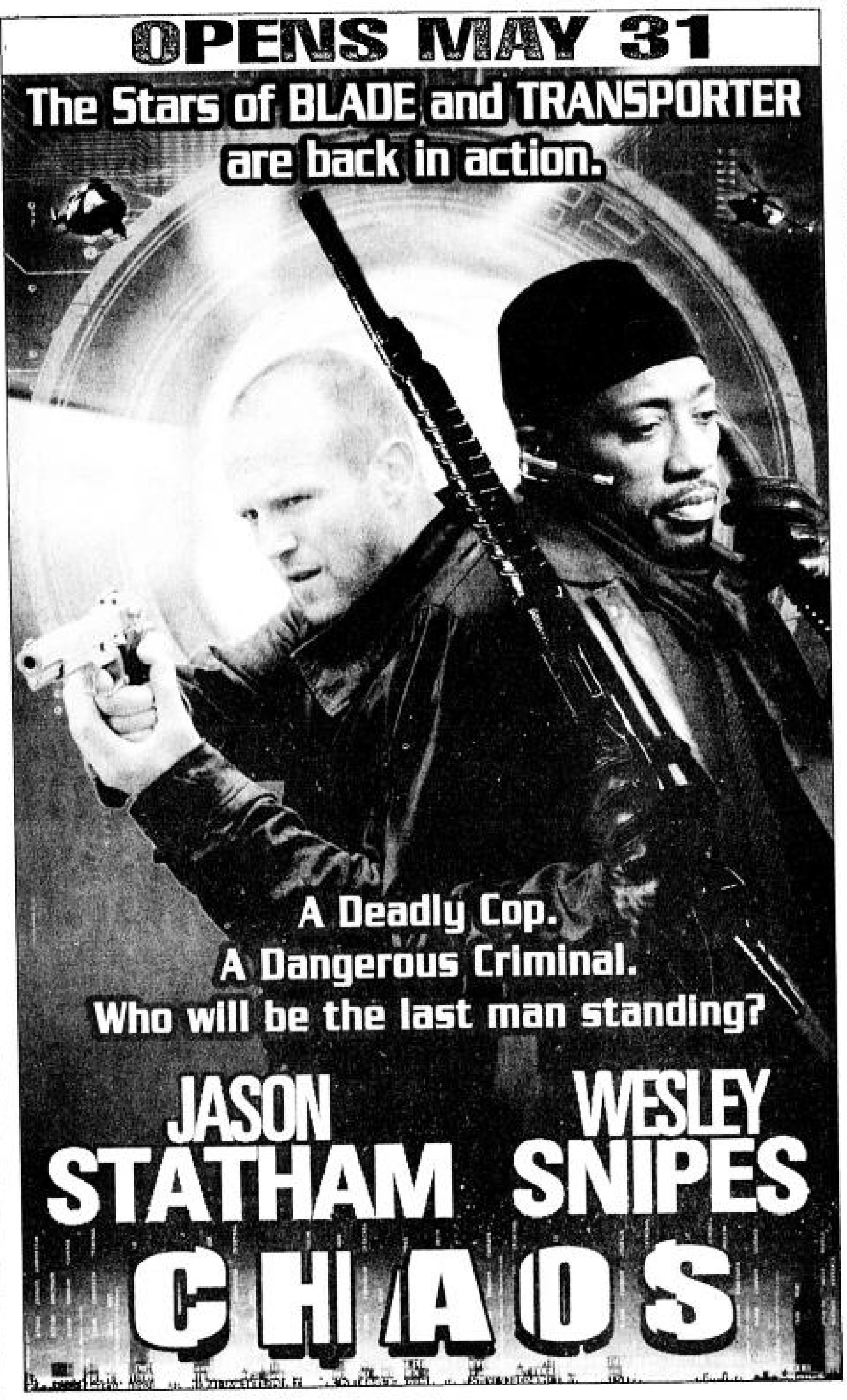
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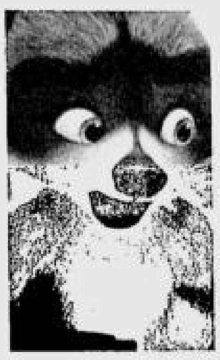
REVIEW



Cuddly beasties

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

"OVER THE HEDGE," the new computer-animated Dreamworks feature about lovable vermin, may seem like another generic animal-versus-civilization preach fest at first, but it slowly grows on the viewer as a unique comedic fable. Digitally rendered cartoons like "Madagascar" and "The Wild" highlight their beast protagonists' animal nature with faulty human personalities, and the resulting characters are far from likeable. "Over the Hedge" does it just right, creating a fun yet insightful and eclectic assortment of critters without annoying hang-ups.

Backbone

It owes its sturdy conceptual backbone to the beloved comic strip of the same title, by Michael Fry and T Lewis, which examines suburban living through the eyes of animals residing in its undeveloped woodland portion. RJ the raccoon (charismatically voiced by Bruce Willis), an intelligent scavenger, tries to con a mixed family of gullible animals into stealing food from the humans to pay off a huge debt he owes a hibernating bear, Vincent (Nick Nolte). Throughout the deceit, RJ and his newfound friends learn new things about themselves and the perks that suburbia offers, and the supposedly villainous humans that inhabit it.

It's an interesting, skewed perspective: the pesky animals are mostly naïve and bothersome pests who think they're entitled to the humans' food supply and scraps. The smart script exploits that repeatedly, without seeming too repetitive, while presenting wonderful character-interaction moments. The pop culture references are kept at a minimum, but used decisively.

Seamless

The well-cast voice talents seamlessly fit into their characters. The colorful animation designs don't offer anything new or astounding, but the characters' distinct quirks and traits more than make up for that. "Over the Hedge" is easily comprehensible by kids while still appealing to adult sensibilities because, like "Ice Age," the humor is very visual and pumped-up, and the lessons aren't forced. The movie is funny, kinetic and touching, without resorting to emotional button-pushing and rehashed formulas.

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1 X-MEN 3 • THX 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	6 THE DA VINCI CODE 12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
2 X-MEN 3 11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00	7 POSEIDON 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 THE DA VINCI CODE 12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30	8 OVER THE HEDGE 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00	9 THE DA VINCI CODE 12:15 3:25 6:35 9:45
5 X-MEN 3 11:10 1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30	10 THE DA VINCI CODE 11:45 2:55 6:05 9:15

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 X-MEN 3	12:00 2:10 4:20 6:40 9:00
2 POSEIDON 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	5 X-MEN 3 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 10:00
3 SLITHER 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00	6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50
4 X-MEN 3 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 10:00	7 OVER THE HEDGE 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 11:20 1:50 4:20 6:50 9:15	5 OVER THE HEDGE 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
2 X-MEN 3 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30	6 X-MEN 3 1:50 4:10 6:30
3 POSEIDON 1:00 3:00 5:00 X-MEN 3 7:30	7 X-MEN 3 11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00
4 THE DA VINCI CODE 12:00 3:00 6:00 9:00	8 THE DA VINCI CODE 11:00 2:00 5:00 8:00

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2 X-MEN 3	5 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 THE DA VINCI CODE	6 OVER THE HEDGE

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4 X-MEN 3	4 X-MEN 3
	5 X-MEN 3

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MTRCB. PG-13
12.40 3:00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:00

2 X-MEN 3
MTRCB. PG-13
11 40, 2 00, 4.20, 6:40, 9:00

3 THE DA VINCI CODE
MTRCB. R-18
1:20, 4:25, 7:30,10:35

4 OVER THE HEDGE
MTRCB. GP
12.40, 3.00

PREMIERE THEATRE
THE DA VINCI CODE
MTRCB R-18
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X-MEN: THE LAST STAND PG13 12:00,2:20,4:40, 7:00,9:20	OVER THE HEDGE G 12:00,2:00,4:00,6:00	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50,10:30

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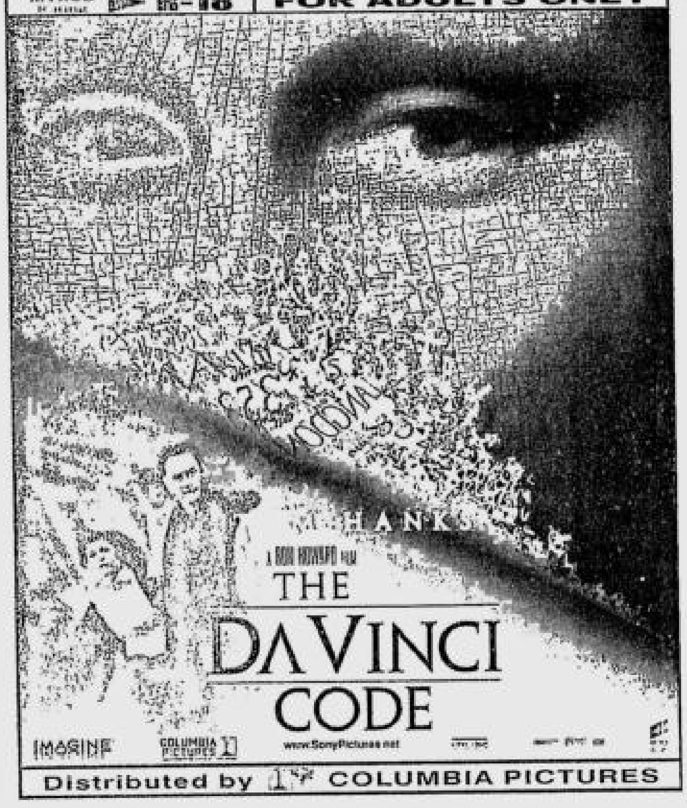

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CINEMA 2 THE DA VINCI CODE
10:30 , 1:30 , 4:30, 7:30 , 10:30 R18

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CINEMA 3 X-MEN III
11:10 , 1:30 , 3:50, 6:10 , 8:30 , 10:50 PG13

CINEMA 4 THE DA VINCI CODE
10:25 , 1:25 , 4:25, 7:25 , 10:25 R18

CINEMA 5 X-MEN III
10:30 , 12:50,3:10, 5:30 , 7:50 , 10:10 PG13

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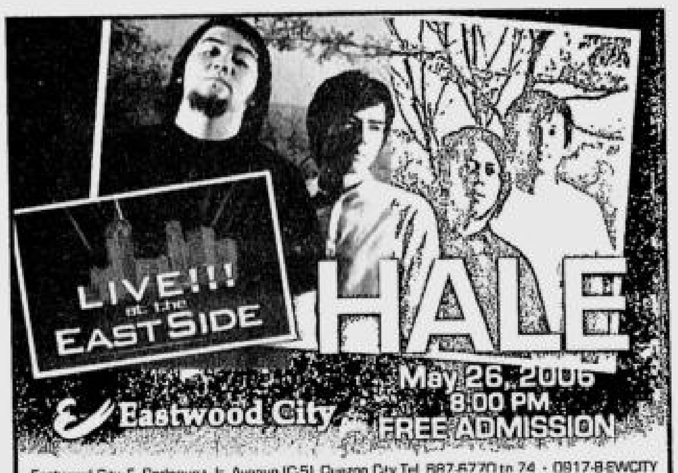

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1 X-MEN 3
11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50
PG-13

2 X-MEN 3
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50
PG-13

3 THE DA VINCI CODE
12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40
R-18

4 THE DA VINCI CODE
1:30, 5:00, 8:25
R-18

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G1 GLORIETTA 1
1 THE DA VINCI CODE | 2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND | 3 THE DA VINCI CODE | 4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND

G4 GLORIETTA 4
1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND | 2 THE DA VINCI CODE | 3 THX X-MEN: THE LAST STAND 12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS
4 THE DA VINCI CODE | 5 OVER THE HEDGE | 6 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND | 7 THE DA VINCI CODE

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 THE DA VINCI CODE | 2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND

GB3 GREENBELT 3
1 THX X-MEN: THE LAST STAND 12:25, 2:45, 5:05, 9:45 GUARANTEED SEATS | 2 THX X-MEN: THE LAST STAND 1:35, 3:55,6:15, 10:55 GUARANTEED SEATS
3 OVER THE HEDGE 12:50, 2:55, 5:00, 7:05, 9:10, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS | 4 THE DA VINCI CODE GUARANTEED SEATS | 5 THE DA VINCI CODE GUARANTEED SEATS

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1 THX X-MEN: THE LAST STAND | 2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND
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M2 MARKET! MARKET!
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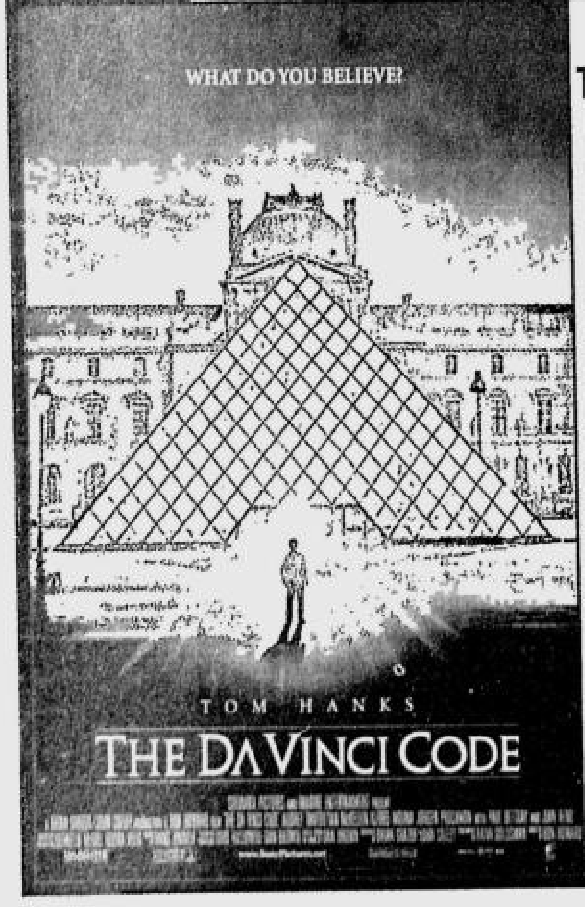

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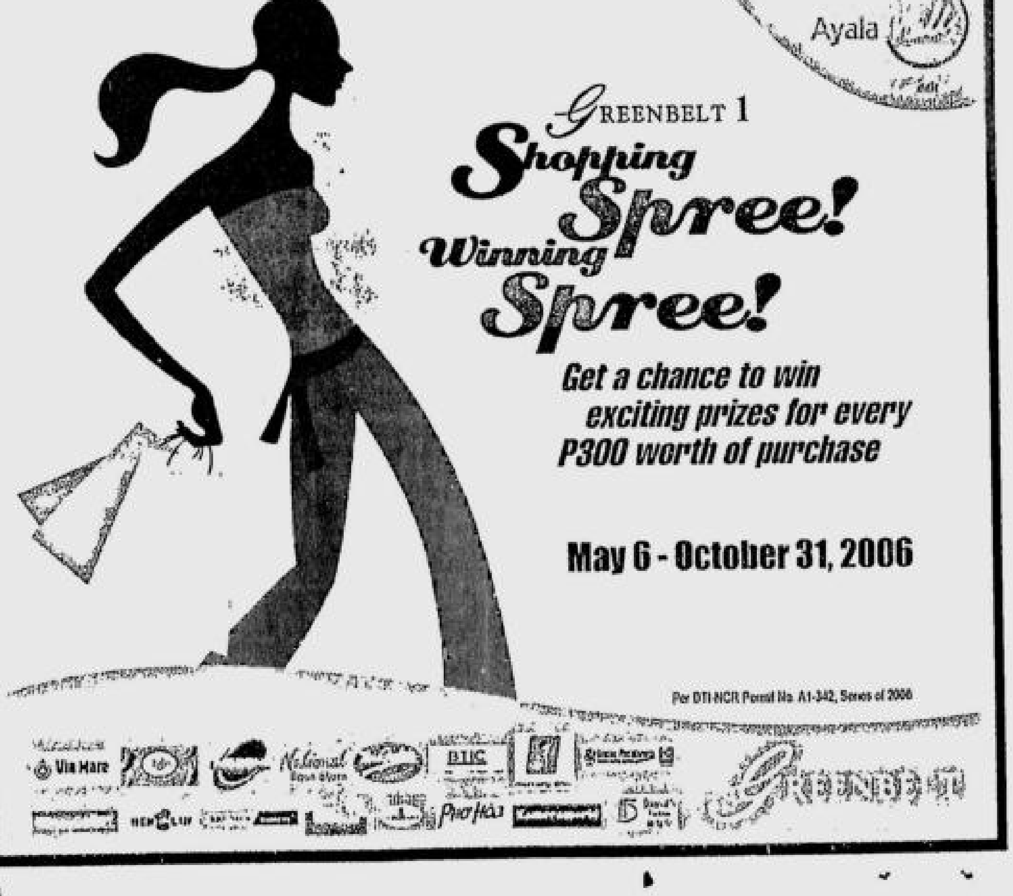
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JEN on co-star and current beau Vince Vaughn, left: "The cream of the crop as a comedian ... amazing dramatic actor."

Jennifer Aniston on Vince, Brad…

From page A2-1

wrote the story. Joey Lauren Adams, Vince's ex-girlfriend, also stars in this movie about how a couple (Jennifer and Vince) can't seem to break up properly and continue to stay together, bickering. Others in the cast are Ann-Margret, Jason Bateman, Judy Davis, Vincent D'Onofrio and Jon Favreau.

Weren't you hesitant to accept a movie with this title? Or was it therapeutic?

It was definitely therapeutic. It was also all happening at the exact same time with my… you know. At first, I thought it was a joke when I got the phone call from my agent about a movie called "The Break-Up" (laughter). I said, you've got to be kidding me. But after reading the script, I thought there was no better way to heal than through laughter. I don't know if I could have done as good a job with it if it had come six months earlier.

Why do you think there are more breakups today than there were a generation or two ago?

People are just lazy. And we have become a society where everything is disposable. But who knows if there are people who should not have stayed together among the older generations. My parents certainly shouldn't have stayed married and they didn't. You have to put in as much work into a marriage as you can and exhaust every option before you break up.

Were you surprised at how your own breakup generated all this media interest?

I wasn't aware of a lot that was going on… there was so much that was fabricated… creating unnecessary suffering. To anybody, that would be surreal.

There's quite a number of paparazzi waiting outside this hotel. Do you ever get used to it?

I wish there was a way to get used to it. It's way more than it's ever been and I don't think it's just because we went through a breakup. I think it's because there are so many publications now. There's not just the Crap Three. There's now the Crap Seven (laughter). It also has something to do with the weird phase happening in television. It's all reality TV now so people are obsessed with reality or whatever they are given as reality. It's also messing with movie ticket sales. Who needs to go see a star in a movie if there's no mystique left?

Following up on that, do strangers come up and try to console you?

I've consoled a lot of weeping, wonderful people (laughter). It's quite moving. I've had a Greek woman in an elevator go off in Greek about something. It wasn't very nice (laughter) but I've had all kinds of the strangest experiences—name it.

How was it working as a comedienne with Vince?

Working with him is like working with a tennis pro. He's the cream of the crop. He is also an amazing dramatic actor. He thinks, he listens, and he is not up there. He's a really generous actor and likes to try things. I also love to try things. You don't always get that kind of fun and feel like you're on an equal playing field.

How did you get along with Joey Lauren Adams (Vince's ex-girlfriend)?

Joey and I met while doing this movie. We got along right off the bat.

You look good. Do you enjoy maybe being a little selfish and taking more care of yourself?

That is priority number one. That's the only way you can really have a great relationship—if yourself is your priority. You don't compromise yourself. Compromise is such a weird word to use in the context of relationships because it sounds like you're giving up something of yourself. A good friend said it's better to look at it as a collaboration. You should be present, participate, give, nurture and care. Do all of that but still take care of yourself. I don't think it works any other way.

Was doing the nude scene in this film a scary experience?

It was pretty scary. That was a long walk [in the nude]. I don't know if I walk in my house that far naked (laughter) by myself, quite honestly. On top of it, doing the scene felt like it was taking so long. I felt like I was walking in slow motion. I broke a sweat every time.

In the film, your character wants help in the house from Vince's character and gifts like flowers. In real life, what do you like to receive?

I don't want chocolates but I do like flowers.

> 'I have consoled a lot of weeping, wonderful people. It's moving … touching … bizarre …'

What are the other little things that you like a man to do to show his affection?

Oh, just being considerate. I don't need things. People just want to be equal participants. I'd much rather have that than a bouquet of flowers.

What are the four things in life that you can't live without?

Well, my dog. That's the first thing. Water (laughter). A Zone Bar is always good. And health. My health is very important to me. I can add friends.

And the four deal-breakers?

Lying is a no-no. Inconsistency. Those are the two big ones. Any kind of cruel behavior is not acceptable. A lot falls under that umbrella. Someone who hates dogs.

In the movie, the couple is not connecting. Do you think part of the problem is that some men have arrested development (laughter)?

Oh, God, that's tricky. I don't know if I should answer that one (laughter). I think that sometimes yes, men do not develop as quickly as women do but I think they eventually do catch up.

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

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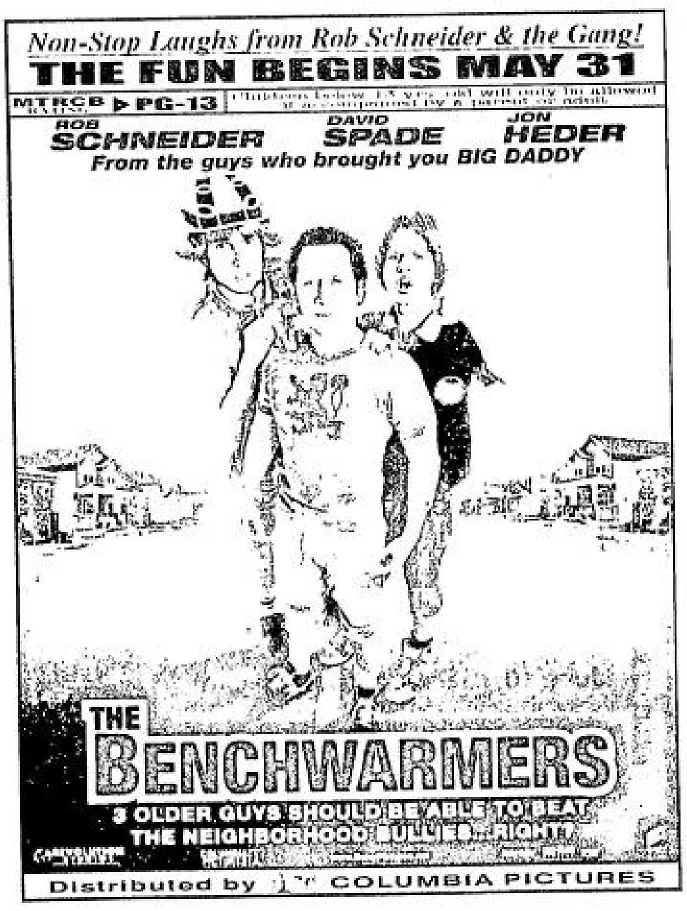
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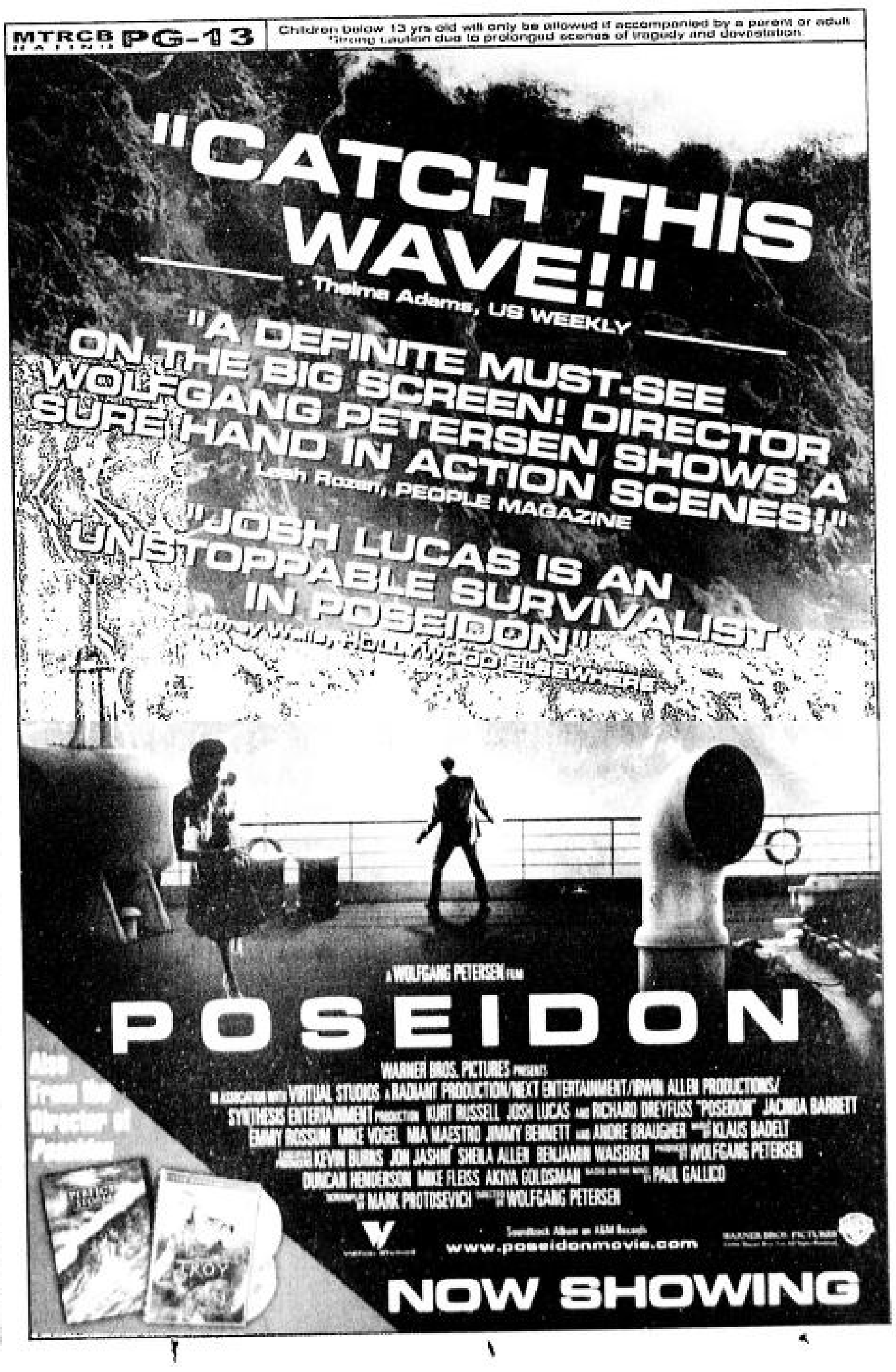
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Leah Rozen, PEOPLE MAGAZINE
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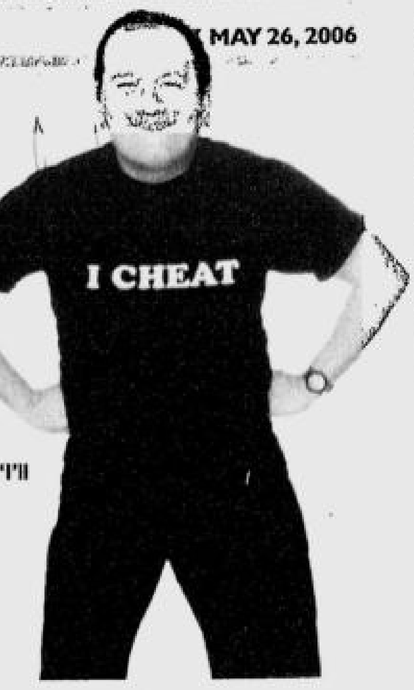
'Direk' doesn't live here anymore

Joey Reyes says his sudden flight from ABS-CBN is an 'amiable and amicable' parting of ways



JOEY Reyes: "I'll be very busy."

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

FILMMAKER JOSE JAVIER REYES HAS CONfirmed the rumor.

"I am no longer connected with ABS-CBN on an official and exclusive basis," he told INQUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview on Wednesday.

Reyes, known as "Direk Joey" in show biz circles, hosted the Kapamilya network's Saturday gossip show "ETK" until it was reformatted into "Entertainment Konek." He was transferred to the model search "Close Up to Fame 2" as one of the judges.

"Close Up to Fame 2," which has a limited run (until July), took over the time slot of "ETK."

On June 3, the youth sitcom "Let's Go" replaces "Konek," which is hosted by Direk Joey's former co-hosts on "ETK," Ogie Diaz and Toni Gonzaga, with INQUIRER Entertainment columnist Dolly Ann Carvajal as guest co-host.

Just a talent

Reyes chose to retain his position as creative consultant on the network's Sunday night gab fest "Sharon," hosted by singer-actress Sharon Cuneta.

"As of now, I'm only a talent [of ABS-CBN]," Reyes explained and added, in jest, that his relationship with the station was now "an open marriage."

Did this mean he could now work in rival channels? "I can work with anyone," he replied. "But, as of now, I'll follow Sharon's advice and give lectures and workshops on script writing and acting. I'll initially conduct these seminars independently of the networks."

He said he had become much too identified with the Kapamilya network since accepting "ETK" over a year ago. "The most convenient thing to do is to purge my connection with the network."

This was easier said than done, he admitted, especially since he had grown fond of his co-workers on "Sharon" and "ETK."

"I love them," he said. "In fact, I told Sharon that she's the only reason that I'm not leaving. I promised her, '*Walang iwanan* (We will stick together).'"

After his contract with ABS-CBN expired in January this year, Reyes still continued his hosting chores on "ETK" and his consultancy work on "Sharon."

Moving on

But in April, he said he had a "much-delayed" meeting with Socorro Vidanes, ABS-CBN senior vice president for television production, and Joanna Gomez, head of operations.

"Joanna got me into ABS-CBN over a year ago," he recounted. "We discussed and understood one another's predicaments. It was an amiable and amicable parting of ways. I have no hard feelings. I'd like to move on. There are so many things I want to do."

Reyes is currently doing the Seiko Films family drama, "I Wanna Be Happy," starring Eddie Garcia, Gloria Romero and Cherry Pie Picache. The film has a July playdate. Three of his scripts were also submitted as possible entries in the forthcoming Metro Manila Film Festival.

"I'll be very busy," he pointed out. "I'm also planning to put up a counseling center for young gays and lesbians. I've already received inquiries from individuals and organizations."

DID YOU KNOW...

AT LEAST THREE News and Current Affairs shows of ABS-CBN are getting canceled next month—"Pipol," "Payong Kaibigan" and "Kontrobersyal." The last one is hosted by **Boy Abunda.**

P50M and counting for 'Barbell' on TV

From page A2-1

could never do, no matter how many wires we put on him."

Though huge by local standards, the budget was not limitless. "There were other things we could not afford," Zapata admitted.

But it all boils down to the story, he said. "If it's a good story, that's enough inspiration for me."

Zapata previously directed "Darna," "Sugo," "Mulawin" and "Mulawin, the Movie." As far as his work on "Barbell" is concerned, he said, only a marriage between Captain Barbell and Darna could top it.

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May 27	SM Southmall	June 04	SM Sta. Rosa	June 24	SM Cebu
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10:30 am - 12 nn : Registration Period (first come, first serve basis)
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June 03	Manila, PICC
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WHAT'S INSIDE

Equitable's chutzpah /B3

Manufacturing output down 6.6% in March /B5

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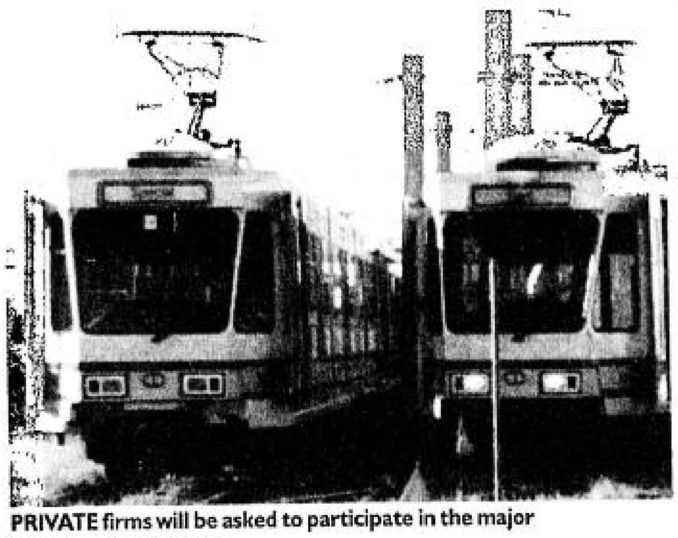
Gov't revives plan to extend LRT-1 to Cavite



PRIVATE firms will be asked to participate in the major infrastructure project.

World Bank to fund half of project cost

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE REVIVAL OF THE $800-MILLION PLAN TO extend the Light Rail Transit Authority's (LRTA) Line 1 from Parañaque to the province of Cavite is in full swing with the government now searching for funding for the project.

In a message to reporters, Assistant Transportation Secretary Roberto R. Castañares said half of the project cost would be sourced from the private sector while the other half would come via a cheap loan from the World Bank.

"The private financing will be done through a solicited build-operate-transfer scheme," he said. "Of the amount, 75 percent will come in the form of debt, while 25 percent will be in the form of equity."

The private sector component will be used to fund the electro-mechanical component of the project—the trains, and its power and control systems—while the World Bank-funded government share will be used for the civil works portion.

The project calls for the extension of the LRT Line 1—a Marcos-era rail system inaugurated in the early 1980s—from its Baclaran terminal to Bacoor, Cavite.

By doing so, the government hopes to ease congestion on the two main Manila-Cavite road links—the Coastal Road and the South Super Highway.

The LRTA expects the first phase, which will run up to Bacoor, to carry an average of 400,000 commuters a day—slightly higher than the 350,000 passengers which the original Line 1 ferries. The government eventually plans to extend the rail service all the way to Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Castañares said the World Bank has offered to finance half of the estimated $800 million needed for the rail extension.

"DOTC supports the project, but due to limited budget ceiling, the LRTA may have to explore other funding options," he said. "In the meantime, we have al-

GOV'T/ B4

Imports rose 8% in March to $4.14B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S imports rose 8 percent to $4.14 billion in March from a year ago following the increase in purchases of electronics, a development authorities said would help keep the Philippines on track to meet its export-growth target for the year.

A report from the National Statistics Office (NSO) showed that imports in March brought the total cost of foreign merchandise bought in the first quarter to $11.17 billion, 6 percent higher than last year's.

Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning at the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said in an interview that the 8-percent imports growth in March kept the country poised to hit the goal of an 8-percent exports growth this year.

IMPORTS/ B5

Peso bucks regional recovery

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO YESTERDAY BUCKED THE RECOVERY seen by most Asian currencies, remaining under intense selling pressure but kept from sliding past 53:$1 so far by Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas intervention.

The local currency closed at a new four-month low of 52.95 yesterday, retesting Thursday's intra-day low, even as other Asian currencies managed to recover some losses. It was the peso's weakest finish since ending at 52.96 against the greenback on Jan. 20.

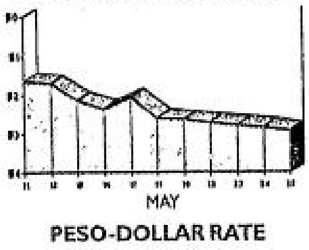
The peso, which has given up most of its gains this year, shed another 10 centavos from Thursday's finish of 52.85:$1.

Across the region, there was a respite on the two-week selldown yesterday, but in the

PESO/ B4

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



MAY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱52.95 = $

As of 5 p.m., May 25, 2006

¥112.66 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 25, 2006

GOLD: $645.00-645.50

per ounce Hong Kong, May 25, 2006

Shares close 1.03% lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED LOWER for a third consecutive session, losing 1.03 percent with investors unloading stocks on concerns over possible further increases in US interest rates and volatile commodity prices, dealers said.

The composite index finished down 23.25 points at 2,229.33. It traded between 2,225.31 and 2,242.17.

The broader all-shares index fell 9.93 points to 1,400.05.

SHARES/ B4

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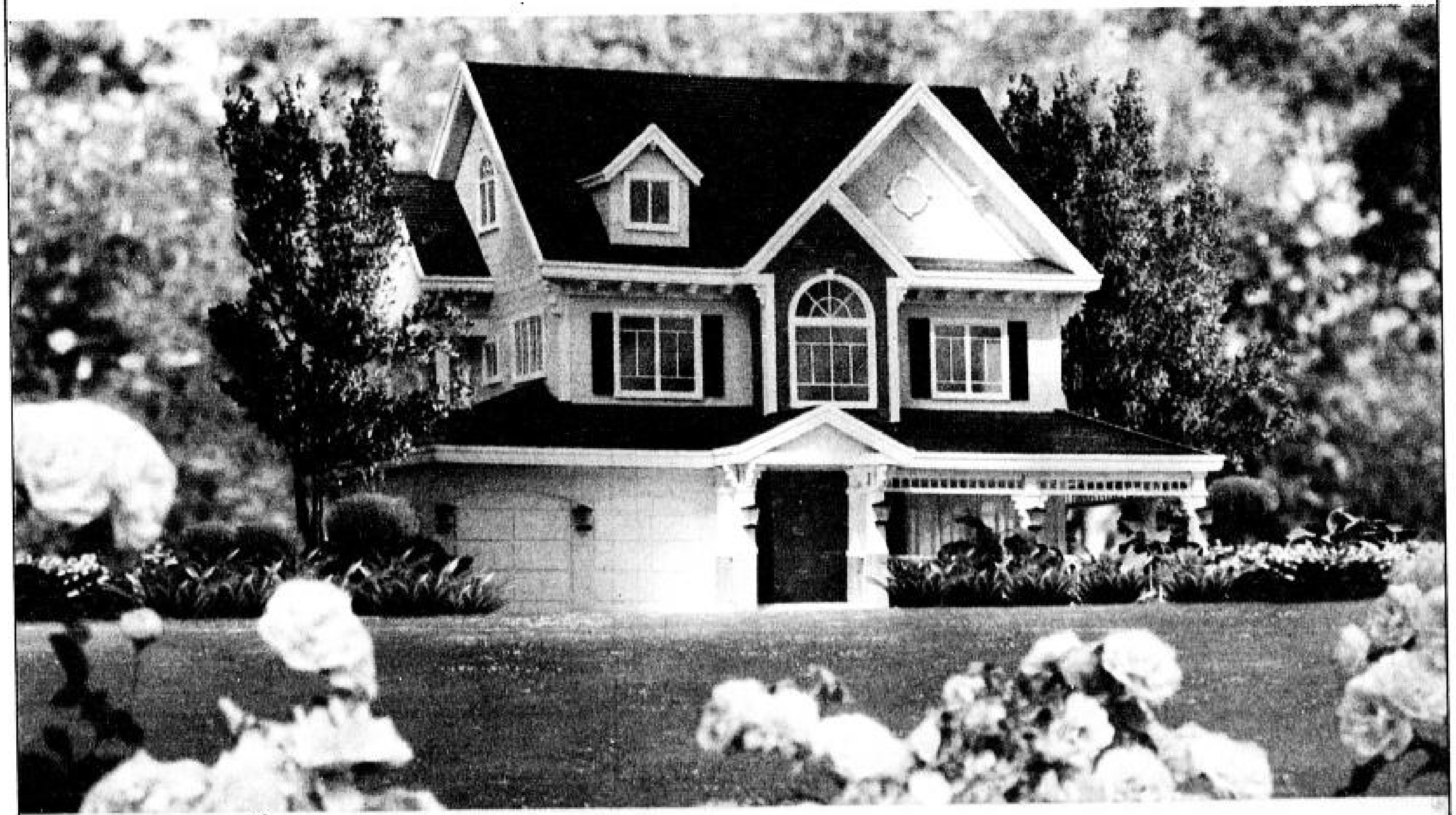


BIR VAT collection rose 61% to ₱42.8B in first 4 months

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE'S value-added tax collection as of the first four months of the year grew 61 percent to P42.8 billion following the implementation of the Reformed VAT law.

From January to April of 2005, the BIR's VAT collection stood at only ₱26.59 billion.

VAT collections for the first four months of this year was also 7 percent higher than the target of P39.9 billion.

Gil Beltran, undersecretary of the Department of Finance, head agency of the BIR, said the VAT law helped improve the tax collection efficiency and auditing capabilities of the BIR.

The VAT law, considered to be the centerpiece of the Arroyo administration's fiscal reform agenda, expanded the coverage of the VAT to include oil and electricity among others, and raised the VAT rate from 10 to 12 percent.

Beltran said the expansion of the VAT base allowed the BIR to track down delinquent taxpayers. This is because the VAT system provides a mechanism whereby the input VAT credits of firms are deducted from their total VAT liabilities.

In declaring their input VAT credits, business owners must report details of how they get their credits. Since more firms are now covered by VAT, the BIR has also expanded its paper trail of VAT liabilities of companies.

Input VAT credits are the amount of VAT shouldered by a firm every time it purchases goods or services whose prices already include the VAT. Input VAT credits can be deducted from a firm's total VAT liabilities.

Beltran said the growth in VAT collections by the BIR kept the government on track to meet its goal of raising at least P75 billion in additional revenues this year following the implementation last November of the VAT law.

The P75 billion should be raised by the BIR and the Bureau of Customs, which also collect VAT from oil imports.

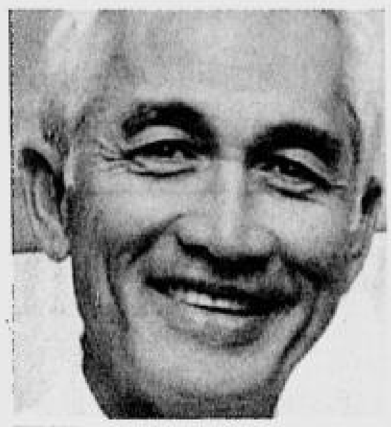
"We might even post an over-performance," Beltran said, referring to the BIR's present conduct in tax collection.

Latest data on VAT collections showed that, as of the first quarter of this year, additional tax collection resulting from the VAT law stood at P16.1 billion, of which the BIR accounted for P5.1 billion, while the Bureau of Customs had a bigger share of P11 billion.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves had said the P16.1 billion worth of VAT collected in the first quarter was 4 percent higher than the target for the period of P15.5 billion and well on track to meet or even surpass the P75 billion full-year target.

He said tax collection appeared to be higher in the latter, rather than the earlier, months of the year.

According to Teves, the tax measure is expected to improve the BIR's auditing capabilities.


TEVES

Teves directed the BIR to tighten the implementation of its other revenue-raising measure to ensure that the revenue agency hits its tax collection goal of P675 billion for 2006.

The promise of biofuel

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

COMMENTARY

THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT, WHEN I TALKED to four senators at the Senate this week, they were all committed in passing the bill on biofuels before Congress breaks for recess.

For this commitment to bear fruit, a win-win solution formulated in the spirit of productive consensus must overcome the narrow interests of some parties presently hindering the bill's passage. Considering the global picture, we hope that a solution will be found.

Global perspective

As early as 1894, bioethanol was used by manufacturers of internal combustion engines in Germany and France.

Brazil and the United States were the first two countries to set up national bioethanol programs. The officials of both countries formulated the regulatory and trade framework conditions to propel the growth of the industry.

Today, they are the world leaders in bioethanol production and utilization. In 2003, Brazil produced 4.4 billion liters of sugarcane-based bioethanol, while the United States produced 10.9 billion of corn-based bioethanol.

It is clear that to succeed in bioethanol, a conscious government program must be implemented. Take the case of the two leading fuel ethanol users in Asia: Thailand and India.

The Thai ethanol committee was formed to create alternative products for sugarcane. Ethanol was the most attractive alternative because, like the Philippines, Thailand is confronted with perennially low sugar prices.

In India, as in many other countries, the pressure came from increasingly higher crude oil prices and the worsening environmental pollution caused by vehicular emission. India thus embarked on a successful trial where they mixed 5 percent fuel ethanol with petrol.

Today, at least 13 countries produce fuel ethanol. Because of our very high and dangerous 96-percent dependence on imported oil and oil products, it is necessary for the Philippines to immediately turn its attention to biofuels.

Economy and Employment

Aside from the economic benefits—like generating 300,000 new jobs, yielding foreign exchange savings of $825 million over a ten-year period, and guaranteeing demand of an average of 300 million liters of ethanol annually—bioethanol is needed to avert a looming price crisis. Already, fuel prices are skyrocketing.

The government is now starting to organize around this issue, so is the private sector. Sugar farmer Jose Maria Zabaleta already took action by helping organize the Ethanol Alliance.

"Oil is a fossil fuel where there is limited non-renewable supply in the world," Zabaleta said. "In ten years, this supply will be extremely tight. In twenty years, we will not be able to get the oil we need. This is because we are discovering new sources of fossil fuel at only half the rate we are consuming it. The supply will run out, and we will simply not survive."

Omi Royondoyan, Philippine Center for Rural Development Studies Executive Director, agrees, "Unlike fossil fuels, biofuels are renewable and will not run out," Royondoyan said. "It is ironic that we import expensive fuels when we can use our own sustainable biofuels, which can at the same time produce much needed jobs for our farmers."

Environment and energy

In addition to the employment benefits, bioethanol improves the environment because its high level of oxygen increases the efficiency of the combustion process. As an octane enhancer, ethanol catches emissions of cancer-causing benzene and butadiene by more than 50%. It also reduces particulate emissions, especially fine particles that pose health hazards to children and senior citizens. Since it is not a fossil fuel, manufacturing and burning it does not increase the greenhouse effect.

In Brazil, sugarcane-based bioethanol has reduced greenhouse gas emission equivalent to 7 million tons of carbon each year. In the US, corn-based bioethanol has reduced carbon emission by up to 29 percent.

As for energy efficiency, according to the Brazilian government, sugarcane-based bioethanol's ratio of energy produced to energy required is 10:1. In the United States, the Argon National Laboratory says that corn-based bioethanol produces 35 percent more energy than what's required.

Senate Watch

It has been argued, sometimes unfairly, that Congress should make less speeches and make more laws. With the few remaining days before Congress takes its break, it is hoped that lawmaking will take center stage in both chambers, specially in the case of the bill on biofuels. The nation, specially the farmers, have a large stake in this bill because it affects each of the four critical Es: economy, employment, environment and energy.

People like Zabaleta are doing more and talking less. They attend the Senate sessions and monitor each senator's performance with regard to the bill. The Alyansa Agrikultura will get a report on the Senate Watch and share it with others to guide voters in the next election. It is hoped that the Senate will rise to the challenge and make the promise of biofuel a reality at last.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

RP upgraded a notch on rating technicality

Moody's uses new methodology, raises foreign currency ceiling of 70 countries

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES YESTERDAY BAGGED A one-notch foreign currency ceiling upgrade from US-based Moody's Investor Service—but only because the influential rating agency used a new methodology which resulted in an upgrade for 70 rated countries.

Prompted more by a new and more flexible rating scheme rather than a favorable change in fundamental assessment, the country ceiling on long-term foreign currency bonds for the Philippines was raised from B1 to Ba3—three notches below investment grade—while the negative outlook was maintained.

Moody's assigns a ceiling for foreign currency bonds and notes to every country, indicating the highest rating that can be assigned to an issuer within the territory. In most cases, the ceiling is equivalent to the rating that is assigned to government bonds, but some issuers with better ratings are allowed to exceed the country ceiling.

Based on Moody's definition, bonds that are rated Ba are still speculative, with moderate protection of interest and principal.

Lower rated B bonds, on the other hand, "generally lack characteristics of the desirable investment" and assurance of payment over any long period of time may be small.

In a statement from New York, Moody's said a new approach in setting the foreign currency ceilings for bonds had resulted in an upgrade for 70 rated countries.

The country ceiling covers a wider range of issuers based in a particular country. A revised country ceiling may not necessarily result in a change in the Philippine government's credit rating.

"Under our new country ceiling methodology, we no longer automatically assume that a foreign-currency bond default by a government would be accompanied by a foreign-currency payment moratorium affecting most issuers domiciled within its borders," said Vincent Truglia, managing director of Moody's sovereign risk unit.

Due to the change in methodology, Moody's likewise upgraded the foreign-currency issuer ratings of nongovernment issuers. In the Philippines, six issuers—five of which are banks—benefited from the upgrade.

URC Philippines Ltd.'s senior unsecured foreign currency debt rating was upgraded to Ba3 from B1, with a negative outlook.

Five big Philippine banks were likewise given upgrades on senior and/or subordinated foreign currency debt to Ba3 from B1—Banco de Oro Universal Bank, Equitable PCI Bank, Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Rizal Commercial Banking Corp. and Union Bank of the Philippines.

Foreign firms invited to inspect Naia 3

AT LEAST THREE foreign firms are interested in bidding for a contract to assess the structural integrity of the controversial Terminal 3 of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport, transportation authorities said yesterday.

Department of Transportation and Communications Sec. Leandro Mendoza said that the bidders for the technical evaluation contract include companies from Japan and the US.

"[This] inspection is to determine the structural integrity of the airport, whether it's safe or not," Mendoza said.

Mendoza said that the technical evaluation will be independent from the price valuation of the terminal, which will form the basis of the government's payment to its German builders.

"It's the court that will valuate the cost of property," he said.

German airport operator Fraport AG—the main contractor for the project—claims it spent up to $450 million to build the terminal under the Philippine International Air Terminal Co. consortium. The deal was nullified by the Supreme Court for being onerous.

Should the government be required to shoulder the amount, he said it would make the use of the terminal prohibitive in terms of cost to airlines and flyers. *Daxim L. Lucas*

UITFs' MAIN INVESTMENTS ARE PHILIPPINE GOV'T SECURITIES

Philippine Peso Bond Unit Investment Trust Funds (UITF) are fundamentally sound investments. The majority of peso bond UITFs are invested principally in debt obligations that are fully guaranteed by the Philippine government. There is no safer and more secure investment available. However, the Philippines is in the midst of a temporary interest rate volatility; the result of a confluence of domestic and international events. This volatility is having an adverse, albeit temporary, effect on UITF NAVpus. Circumstances aside, this does not, in any way detract, from the safety and soundness of the UITF's underlying securities.

Current market circumstances have lead to fluctuating and declining NAVpus in the UITF industry. In particular, rising interest rates have had a negative effect on bond UITF valuation. However, the current volatility is short-term, and not an indication of lasting instability. In fact, market experts are calling the current level of interest rates too high, overdone and extremely attractive for investment. Essentially, these opinions indicate that NAVpus of peso bond UITFs have probably bottomed out. A recovery of UITF NAVpus is in the offing, once the market begins to take advantage of these interest rate levels. Investors who maintain a medium to long term investment horizon should not be alarmed.

Sentiment that UITF NAVpus will continue their downtrend unremittingly, even though its underlying assets are inherently safe and guaranteed by the government, is unrealistic. The value of these debt instruments is irrevocably linked to the Philippine government.

The soundness of UITFs is not only attributable to their investment outlets, but to the regulatory framework that guides their operation. The UITF industry is carefully watched by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and governed by BSP Circular 447. This circular is patterned after global fund management standards. Among the most important are proper risk disclosure statements to clients, quarterly reports to clients, provisions for security custodianship as well as yearly internal and external audits.

The most dangerous mindset in this market is irrational panic and fear. The existing volatility is by no means permanent. Investors must keep in mind, above all else, that what they are holding is a valuable investment asset, i.e. Philippine government securities..

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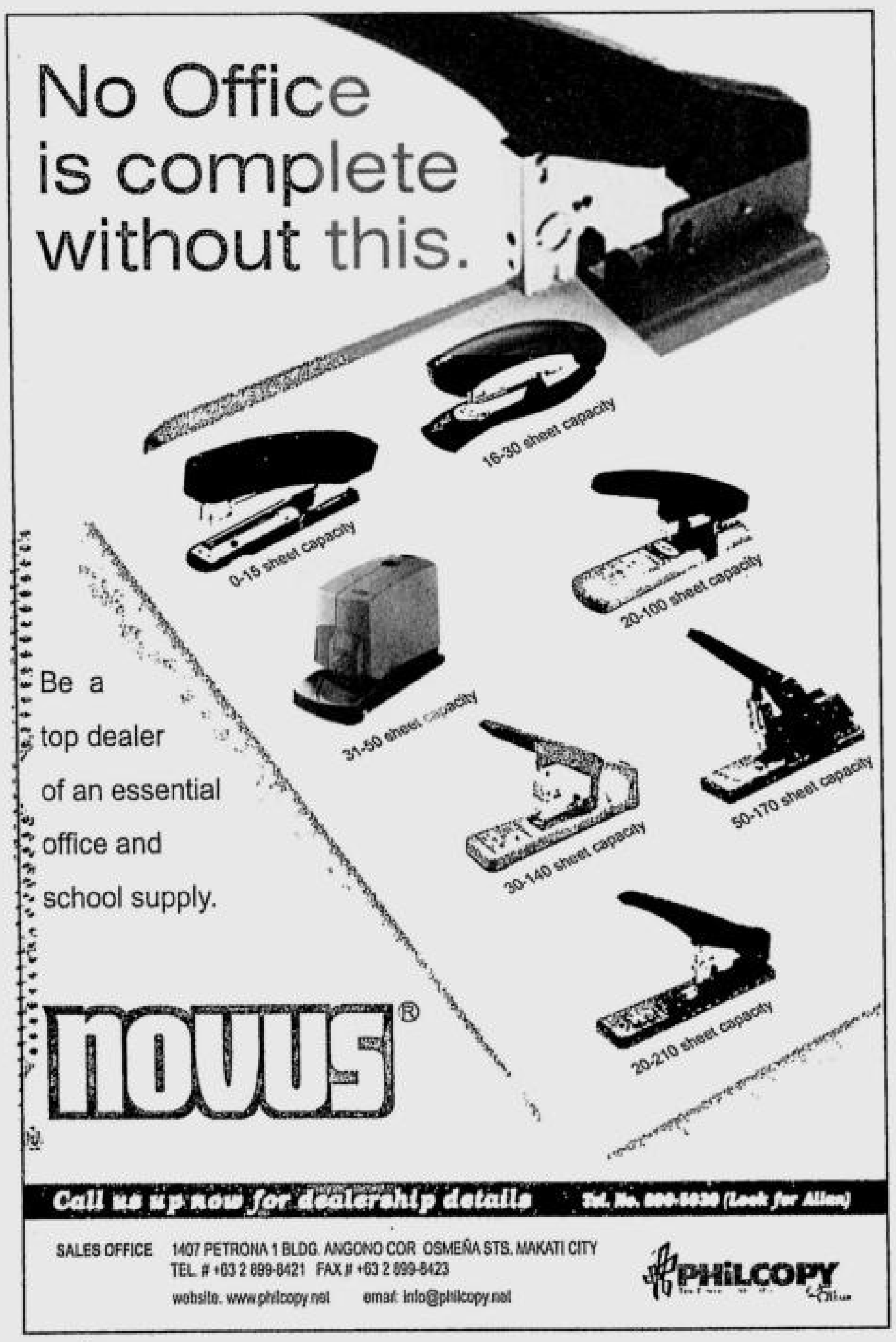

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Equitable's chutzpah

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

NOT ONLY WAS FERDINAND MARTIN ROmualdez removed as vice chair of Equitable PCIBank, even his older brother, Benguet Corp. chair Benjamin Philip Romualdez, also found himself unseated from the bank's advisory board after Tuesday's argument-filled meeting.

The Romualdez board representation now hangs in the balance not only in the bank but apparently in Benguet itself, where the majority Romualdez shares are also sequestered, in the wake of the latest Sandiganbayan ruling that neither the PCGG nor the Romualdez family can vote the sequestered Equitable PCIBank shares.

Despite the setback, Ferdinand Martin walked over to SM heiress and bank vice chair Teresita Sy and her brother Harley, shook their hands, and engaged in postbellum analysis, before finally taking his leave.

The Romualdez ouster is the latest of the internal shocks that the bank has weathered since the boardroom feud between the Lopezes and the Gokongweis prompted the PCI Bank sellout and acquisition by the then much-smaller Equitable Bank.

Still, the merged bank survived the Jose Velarde scandal and bank run, the subsequent ouster of the Equitable owners, and, for 2005, the officers corps even overcame the bank's fractious board to post a respectable 12-percent increase in net income.

Even bank president Rene Buenaventura seemed to have learned to take the pressures in stride and gained considerable weight, although some attribute the expansion to stress-eating.

"We have every confidence that our organization shall only grow further in might and reach as we put these strengths to bear on the paths we shall take in the future," Buenaventura boldly told shareholders.

And, in a further testament to the bank's chutzpah amid the creeping presence of the Banco de Oro Group from within, Equitable PCIBank's 2005 annual report was even titled, "Rising to Dominance."

Maxim-um exposure

ABS-CBN president Eugenio "Gabby" Lopez III did not pass up the chance to ogle sweet young things in Tuesday night's launch of the Philippine edition of Maxim men's magazine at the legendary Air Force One KTV.

And we are happy to note that not one of the solicitous guest relations officers called out "Welcome back, Daddy!" to Lopez or any of the ABS-CBN Publishing Inc. bigwigs and their hundreds of advertising and corporate guests.

Perhaps the only jarring note in the enjoyable evening was when a diffident but stunning model was coaxed into talking about herself, only to say that she was a model of FHM, the competing men's magazine!

"We all had a good laugh," Maxim promoter Apa Ongpin later recalled.

And speaking of FHM, Summit Publishing chief Lisa Gokongwei-Cheng dashed off a few lines to say that, based on 2005 audit figures, FHM outsells Maxim in the United Kingdom, both their own home base.

"Even Loaded and Men's Health, published also by Summit locally, are bigger than Maxim's UK," said Gokongwei-Cheng.

Heard through the grapevine

DINKY Soliman, Mely Nicolas and Rep. Roilo Golez were seen meeting with officials of the legal Left at the Asian Institute of Management coffee shop Wednesday morning.

Soliman, fresh from a foreign-funded overseas trip where she railed against the GMA administration, was even heard saying in Tagalog into a phone, "Roilo, we are already here" before the Parañaque congressman arrived almost an hour later.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

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MODEL	COLOR	YEAR	MILEAGE	PRICE
120i Sport	Titanium Silver	2005	9,000 kms	P1,870,000
120i Executive	Titanium Silver	2005	8,411 kms	P1,880,000
316i (E36)	Calypso Red	1998	42,290 kms	P620,000
320i (E36)	Calypso Red	1996	59,000 kms	P600,000
318i Limousine*	Titanium Silver	2003	33,000 kms	P1,350,000
318i Limousine*	Titanium Silver	2003	25,000 kms	P1,380,000
318i Executive *	Orient Blue	2004	31,311 kms	P1,650,000
318i M-Sport *	Topaz Blue	2004	25,708 kms	P1,700,000
323i *	Cosmos Black	1999	67,554 kms	P1,000,000
325i Executive *	Titanium Silver	2003	19,884 kms	P1,700,000
325i Executive *	Black Sapphire	2004	35,000 kms	P1,850,000
525i Executive	Silver Grey	2004	17,463 kms	P3,600,000
X5 3.0d Executive	Titanium Silver	2005	7,503 kms	P4,800,000
Z4 2.5i Roadster	Maldives Blue	2005	7,094 kms	P2,900,000

*E46 models

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Bond Fund - Peso	1.35904	1.45650
Managed Fund - Peso	1.51020	1.62094
Growth Fund - Peso	1.22564	1.32557
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2344	1.2465

* Note These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.

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	May 22, 2006	May 15, 2006
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Balanced Fund	1.161236	1.200090
Equity Fund	1.216581	1.253925

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Foreign operations boost ICTSI's Q1 income to ₱375M

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE COUNTRY'S BIGGEST PORT OPERATOR yesterday reported a sharp improvement in its performance for the first quarter of 2006 due mainly to the strong contribution of its foreign units.

In a statement, International Container Terminal Services Inc. (ICTSI) said its first-quarter consolidated net income rose by 41 percent to P375 million at the end of March, from only P266 million in the first quarter of 2005.

The net income figures for both periods reflected full adoption of new accounting standards, the company said.

"ICTSI is off to a strong start in 2006," its chair and president, Enrique K. Razon Jr., said. "A somewhat disappointing performance at our flagship terminal in Manila caused by weak volumes was more than offset by excellent contributions from our international units."

Continued strong performance at the company's international operations accounted for virtually all of the increase in quarterly earnings relative to the prior year's period.

Foreign operations contributed 53 percent of the first quarter's consolidated net income, as compared with 35 percent in the first quarter of 2005, and only 34 percent for the full year 2005.

"Strong expense controls, particularly in Manila and Brazil, also contributed to the improvement in financial results," Razon added.

ICTSI handled a total volume of 459,403 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) during the first quarter, an improvement of 4 percent compared to the 443,373 TEUs in the first quarter of 2005.

Consolidated gross revenues from port operations increased by 14 percent to P2.7 billion from P2.4 billion in the first quarter of 2005, as improvements in net yield per TEU handled at all of the company's terminals supplemented the modest growth in consolidated volumes.

Revenues from port operations after deducting port authorities' share totaled P1.9 billion, an increase of 15 percent over the same period last year.

Razon pointed out that the company's terminal in Toamasina, Madagascar, was "off to a good start."

"With the recent acquisition of a terminal in Makassar, Indonesia, we look forward to further future success in the international marketplace," he said. "From a standing start in 2002, ICTSI has built or acquired five terminals in Brazil, Poland, Madagascar, Japan and Indonesia, and these operations are now contributing the majority of the company's earnings. This is a terrific accomplishment in today's highly competitive marketplace."

Domestic operations accounted for 292,487 TEUs, or 64 percent of consolidated volumes, for the first quarter. This was a 6-percent decline over the volumes handled a year ago. The decline, however, was offset by the 25-percent growth of the foreign operations to 166,916 TEUs, which accounted for 36 percent of consolidated volume as compared with 30 percent in the first quarter of 2005. Tecon Suape, S.A. (TSSA) in Brazil and Baltic Container Terminal in Poland both registered 9-percent volume growth from their year-ago levels.

Jollibee opens 1st high-end tea house venture in China

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

JOLLIBEE FOODS CORP., THE COUNTRY'S biggest fast-food chain, has invested close to half a million dollars into its first high-end venture in China through a Taiwan restaurant franchise, Jollibee chief finance officer Ysmael Baysa told the INQUIRER.

Jollibee's foray into China's competitive yet fast-growing market was finally realized last May 20 when it opened its first tea house in Luwan District, a financial and commercial area in Shanghai, under the "Chun Shui Tang Tea House" brand.

Jollibee's first tea house cost roughly $350,000 and will cater to the high-end market or the professionals in Shanghai's financial district.

"Our approach to this venture is quite experimental because it is a high-end tea house. Our market is the working men and women or the professionals aged 20 to 56 years old. We are testing the market because there are a lot of opportunities (in China)," Baysa told the INQUIRER.

Jollibee's foreign unit Jollibee International (BVI) Ltd. inked a franchise agreement with Ice Tea International Inc., an affiliate of Taiwan restaurant Chun Sui Tang Tea House Ltd., which gives the Jollibee Group the exclusive right to operate a restaurant chain in China.

Under the franchise deal, Jollibee will carry the Taiwanese tea house brand name, menu and concept.

The tea house brand name is owned by Chun Sui Tang of Taiwan, well known for its iced and hot tea mixes, pastries and rice meals served in a comfortable restaurant setting. Chun Sui Tang operates 21 stores in Taiwan.

In Shanghai, Jollibee is carrying the same menu and following the same concept using a trendy restaurant design.

In 2004, Jollibee said it formed a team of business managers and store crew, with some coming from Taiwan, to lay the groundwork for its new tea house business. They trained in Chun Shui Tang Tea House in Taiwan for several months and worked in Shanghai.

The JFC Group operates the biggest restaurant chain in the Philippines. As of March 31, the group runs 1,287 stores nationwide. It also operates 161 stores in the United States, Dubai and China through Yonghe King.

Peso bucks regional recovery

From page B1

Philippines, those with dollars were still reluctant to convert into pesos in anticipation of a further strengthening by the greenback, currency traders said.

Traders estimated that the BSP unloaded about $50 million at the Philippine Dealing System to stem the peso's fall.

"There was demand from importers, as well as some month-end corporate demand," a currency trader said.

At the same time, traders said local exporters were holding on to their dollars, speculating at better peso conversion rates in the future. This was not the case in other countries, where dollar sales by exporters eased pressure on their local currencies.

But volume at the Philippine Dealing System yesterday was relatively thin at $285 million, coinciding with the ongoing ACI World Congress hosted by the Philippines and attended by foreign exchange traders across the globe.

Gov't revives plan to extend LRT-1 to Cavite

From page B1

ready requested the Department of Budget and Management for an increase in the budget ceiling."

The DOTC official said actual work on the project would start next year and would be completed by 2010.

He added that Canadian firm SNC Lavalin would no longer be included in the project.

SNC Lavalin started the project rolling in the late 1990s through an $875-million unsolicited proposal, in partnership with the AMA Group of Companies, but the deal fizzled out last year due to cost concerns.

The Canadian firm has since asked the government to repay them $20 million, which it reportedly spent for the feasibility study and development plans. The government, which eventually agreed on a $10-million reimbursement, had already paid $5 million.

The LRTA is still lobbying with the DOTC to have the project included in the government's medium-term priority investment plan, to facilitate funding.

Former owner lays claim on cement firm

STOCKHOLDERS OF ILIGAN CEMENT CORP. were treated to some spectacle after the company's former owner showed up to question the existence of a quorum at the meeting.

Businessman Vicente Ponce, 80, lashed at the Iligan Cement board led by its chair, Renato Sunico, who recognized a quorum based on proxies equivalent to more than 90 percent of the cement firm's outstanding capital stock held by Alsons Cement Corp. and Republic Cement Corp.

Ponce told the meeting at the Makati Sports Club yesterday afternoon that he was the true majority owner of Iligan Cement, with a 67-percent stake under his name.

But he said he was enraged at his partners, the Alcantara family, for allegedly diluting his holdings through a series of transactions that transferred majority ownership of Iligan Cement to the Republic Cement group.

As of presstime, Iligan Cement's sister firm, Mindanao Portland Cement Corp., was also holding a separate stockholders' meeting. Ponce is likewise claiming ownership over this company, which he said he built and founded.

The stockholders' meeting, however, proceeded despite the continuing objections from Ponce.

Iligan Cement posted a net loss of P2 million in 2005 despite an increase in revenues.

Sales volumes rose 4 percent to 474,000 metric tons while net sales grew 8 percent due to higher volume and better selling prices.

Net losses, however, were incurred due to increased operating expenses from higher electricity and fuel costs and an increase in taxes and costs related to the outsourcing of Iligan's quarrying operations. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Shares . . .

From page B1

Losers swamped gainers 71 to 26, and 41 stocks were unchanged.

Volume reached 3.82 billion shares worth P1.72 billion.

"What we're seeing is risk aversion and it's a regional thing," said Jonathan Ravales of Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

Fund managers have been re-aligning their portfolios by trimming investments in regional equities and spending more on fixed-income instruments, dealers said.

Concerns that the US Federal Reserve would lift interest rates further have also weighed on the peso, which is trading at four-month lows against the dollar.

Analysts said the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas may eventually raise rates after keeping them steady for seven months but are not sure whether the increase will happen at its next policy meeting on June 1. The Fed holds its next policy meeting on June 28-29. *AFP*

CURRENCIES

May 25, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.783453	1.000000	52.8830
Japan	Yen	0.006951	0.008872	0.4692
United Kingdom	Pound	1.465371	1.870400	98.9124
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101018	0.128939	6.8187
Switzerland	Franc	0.643811	0.821760	43.4571
Canada	Dollar	0.698888	0.892061	47.1749
Singapore	Dollar	0.493638	0.630080	33.3205
Australia	Dollar	0.588355	0.750976	39.7139
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.078898	2.653505	140.3253
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.208916	0.266660	14.1018
Brunei	Dollar	0.492088	0.628101	33.2159
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000084	0.000107	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020352	0.025977	1.3737
UAE	Dirham	0.213353	0.272324	14.4013
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.276400	67.4999
Argentina	Peso	0.254575	0.324939	17.1837
Brazil	Real	0.332112	0.423908	22.4175
Denmark	Kroner	0.134132	0.171206	9.0539
India	Rupee	0.017196	0.021949	1.1607
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215234	0.274725	14.5283
Mexico	New Peso	0.069845	0.089150	4.7145
New Zealand	Dollar	0.491317	0.627117	33.1638
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013023	0.016622	0.8790
South Africa	Rand	0.118058	0.150689	7.9689
Korea	Won	0.000825	0.001053	0.0557
Sweden	Kroner	0.107464	0.137167	7.2538
Syria	Pound	0.015092	0.019264	1.0187
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024486	0.031254	1.6528

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*Source: BusinessWorld Top 1000 Corporations in the Philippines 2005 (based on 2004 performance)

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 25, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.5	5	5.5	127,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	37	37	35.5	36.5	330,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	61.5	61.5	60.5	60.5	3,014,900
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.4	0.41	0.4	0.4	3,340,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	65	66.5	63	65	448,400
International Exch. Bank	41	41	41	41	1,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37	37.5	35	36	1,178,900
Philippine National Bank	33	33.5	32	33	15,100
Phil. Savings Bank	39	39.5	39	39.5	10,200
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	5,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	46	43.5	46	9,500
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	60,000
First Abacus Financial	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	50,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	10,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1820	1820	1820	1820	170
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.98	0.98	470,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	200	200	200	200	5,600
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2050	2050	2050	2050	680
Ivantage Corp.	1.06	1.28	1.04	1.26	13,642,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	46.5	47	46	47	38,800
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	45.5	46	45.5	45.5	621,100
Manila Electric Co. A	13.25	13.5	13	13	55,500
Manila Electric Co. B	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	1,517,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	7	7	6.6	6.7	7,754,000
Petron Corp.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.2	6,571,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.91	220,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
CADP Group Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	22,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	22.5	23	21.5	23	19,900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35.5	35.5	34.5	34.5	255,700
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.8	2.9	2.75	2.85	879,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	200,000
San Miguel Corp. A	62.5	63.5	62.5	63.5	139,500
San Miguel Corp. B	77.5	77.5	75.5	76	208,600
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	19.25	18.75	18.75	283,900
Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	1,500,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.31	0.31	0.28	0.28	2,150,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.26	1.42	1.24	1.4	4,976,000
Fortune Cement Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	118,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.3	4.5	4.3	4.5	331,000
Republic Cement Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	30,000
CHEMICALS					
Metro Alliance Holdings	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	30,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	150,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.095	0.1	0.0875	0.09	17,400,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	500,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	2,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Ayala Corp.	395	402.5	395	400	366,120
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	50,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.2	5.1	5.1	1,339,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	300
A. Soriano Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.1	3.1	1,669,000
APC Group Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	300,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	3,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.89	0.9	0.86	0.9	1,450,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	89,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.7	9.7	9.7	9.7	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.08	1.04	1.08	3,918,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.8	3.8	3.75	3.75	199,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.05	3.05	3	3	860,000
F&J Prince Holdings Corp.	0.8	0.82	0.8	0.82	130,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	30,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.6	973,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.26	0.29	0.26	0.29	40,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	510,000
SM Investments Corp.	220	221	218	219	192,860
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.61	0.61	0.61	0.61	80,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.0525	0.0525	0.05	0.05	3,200,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.11	0.11	0.105	0.105	1,100,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12.25	12.25	11.75	12	26,919,300
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.14	1.02	1.1	5,293,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.12	2.12	2	2.06	4,749,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	70,000
Cebu Prop. Vent. A	1	1	1	1	100,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	280,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.57	0.57	27,410,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.037	0.042	0.037	0.041	9,100,000
Suntrust Home Dev. Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	190,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.3	1.34	1.3	1.32	7,643,000
Gotesco Land, Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	0.0825	400,000
Interport Res.	0.006	0.0075	0.006	0.0075	125,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.006	0.008	0.006	0.007	88,000,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	10,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	200,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.55	0.55	0.52	0.52	2,350,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	1,500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.56	1.56	1.5	1.52	46,072,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.21	0.22	0.205	0.22	11,070,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.23	0.23	300,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	10.75	10.75	10.5	10.5	979,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.29	0.32	0.29	0.32	2,740,000
SM Development Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.58	1.58	508,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.8	7.5	7.8	5,870,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc	0.09	0.09	0.06	0.07	38,400,000
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.18	1.24	1.14	1.24	6,645,000
Globe Telecom Inc	880	900	880	895	113,790
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.55	2,363,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1945	1950	1940	1950	59,850
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	380,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.049	0.05	0.049	0.05	15,300,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Transpacific Broadband	1	1	1	1	15,000
Philweb Corp.	0.028	0.03	0.028	0.029	360,900,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	45,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	15,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.5	13.5	13	13.25	1,253,100
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.98	1	0.98	1	360,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.32	1.32	1.32	1.32	40,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.57	0.58	0.56	0.58	1,590,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	132,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.96	2.06	1.96	2	634,000
Paxys Inc	10.75	11	10	11	414,100
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	2.9	2.9	2.6	2.7	4,189,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	2.9	3	2.55	2.7	5,090,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	43,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.9	6.9	6.6	6.7	2,806,000
Benguet Corp. A	11	11	10.5	11	41,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.28	0.29	0.27	0.29	7,880,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.32	0.34	0.31	0.34	22,520,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.022	89,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	124,500,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.0085	0.0075	0.008	2,509,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.5	17,070,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.6	3.6	3.4	3.5	26,158,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27	27	27	27	103,800
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.32	0.32	0.26	0.3	1,040,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.46	0.49	0.45	0.49	280,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	40,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.01	0.01	21,800,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	56,400,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.06	1.08	1	1.06	645,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.1	1.1	1	1.06	262,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	13.25	13.5	13	13.25	600,600
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	605,500

DISCLOSURES

VITARICH Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 30, 2 p.m. at the Columbus Room, Discovery Suites, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of May 30 are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

* * *

SALVADOR P. Escaño, Fernando L. Trinidad, Nilo S. Ezequiel, Antonio P. Escaño, Efren A. Palma and Simeon S. Umandal have been elected to the board of directors of Pryce Corp. Vicente Afable, meanwhile, has been elected as an independent director.

* * *

LAWYER Ma. Amaya M.Y.B. Soriano has been appointed corporate secretary of MIC Holdings Corp. effective June 1, following the resignation of Mary Ellen King.

* * *

ZIPPORAH Realty Holdings Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 16, 10 a.m. at the Club Filipino, Waling Waling Room, Eisenhower Street cor. Club Filipino Avenue, Greenhills, San Juan. Stockholders of record as of May 19 are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, PDI Research

Manufacturing output down 6.6% in March

Higher oil prices reduced spending, Neda says

By Michelle V. Remo

MANUFACTURING OUTPUT dropped 6.6 percent in March due largely to the adverse effects of higher oil prices.

Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning at the National Economic and Development Authority (Neda), said higher prices of oil prompted some manufacturing firms to cut down on production to meet lower demand.

According to economists, an increase in prices of oil, a basic commodity, forced consumers to reduce spending for other items like manufactured goods.

Dubai crude, the benchmark used in pricing domestic oil prices, stood at an average price of $57.82 a barrel in March, rising 26 percent from the $45.84 in the same month last year.

But Arroyo said that the 6.6-percent drop in the volume of production in March was still a positive development if compared with the February performance, when production volume slid 12.1 percent year-on-year.

"A lot of manufactured goods are also exported, so any reduction in the decline and any kind of increase in the value of production is a good sign," Arroyo said in an interview, commenting on the data released by the National Statistics Office (NSO).

The NSO also said that the value of production index (VaPI), on the other hand, increased 9.9 percent compared to last year.

VaPI takes into account the increase in inflation, or increase in the cost of consumer products, which stood at 7.6 percent in March.

"Growth in the value of production was broad-based, with 13 of 20 sub-sectors posting an increase in value of production," he said.

The sub-sectors included the following: textiles (26.7 percent), petroleum products (22.1 percent), electrical machinery (14.3 percent), basic metals (13.5 percent), leather (13.4 percent), chemical products (7.2 percent), tobacco (39.2 percent), fabricated metals (32.4 percent), food (26 percent), paper and paper products (15.3 percent), rubber products (11.9 percent), beverage (2.5 percent), and miscellaneous manufactures (29.9 percent).

The lower volume of production in March was coupled with the 4.3-percent decline in the volume of net sales by manufacturing firm during the month.

Value of net sales, however, increased by 7.2 percent.

Arroyo also noted the slight improvement in the capacity utilization rate of manufacturing firms.

The NSO said capacity utilization rate, which determines whether manufacturing firms are able to maximize their capacity to produce, stood at 80.1 percent in March from 80 percent in February.

He said sub-sectors that registered a capacity utilization rate of more than 80 percent were machinery, paper and paper products, petroleum, miscellaneous manufactures, rubber products, leather products, basic metals, food, chemical products and textiles.

MANUFACTURING firms cut on production due to weak consumer spending.

DIVERSIFICATION SET

Henkel revenues hit P1.7B in 2005

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A WORLD LEADER IN LAUNDRY and home care; cosmetics and toiletries; and consumer and craftsmen adhesives yesterday announced it was putting greater stress on social development efforts after growing its revenues to about P1.7 billion as of 2005.

Norman Goldberg, president of Henkel Philippines Inc., said yesterday in a press conference the firm had built up its sales performance a thousand times from about P1.3 million over the past 30 years since the German parent company first put up its subsidiary here.

The Henkel group is known worldwide through the Vernel fabric conditioner, Persil heavy duty detergent, Pril dishwashing liquid, Dial bath soap, among other brands.

Goldberg said the company would soon announce various projects related to sustainability and corporate social responsibility amid its "buoyant business outlook as a long-term (investor)" in the country.

"In the Philippines, we are responsive to consumer demand for products that consciously promote consumer health and safety as well as environment protection, and the community's need for relevant and best-fit CSR projects," he added.

Goldberg said Henkel joined in 2003 the United Nation's Global Compact which espouses human rights, fundamental principles and rights at work, and environmental protection—"the spirit of which has long been anchored in the Dusseldorf-Holtausen-based group's values.

Among Henkel's local CSR projects include financial and volunteer support of orphanages in Tagaytay City and Bulacan as well as a daycare center in Quezon City.

Quick reaction support were also provided in the aftermath of landslides that battered Southern Leyte recently.

Also, Henkel's country manager Manuel R. Tupas III said the company was set to enter the fray of the detergent bar market with the launch of a new product in the pipeline, on which he declined to elaborate.

Tupas said this market segment was so big that it was worth going into despite the variety of well-positioned existing players.

"We would position our new product through our manufacturing innovation along with an expansion of our overall product portfolio," said marketing manager Raymond Antonio.

Republic of the Philippines
Securities and Exchange Commission
Metro Manila

IN THE MATTER OF:
AYALA CORPORATION,
Registrant.

Registration of Securities

x---x

AMENDED NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that on May 2, 2006, a sworn statement was filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission for and on behalf of Ayala Corporation for the registration of P3,000,000,000.00 worth of Preferred Class "B" shares with the par value and issue value of P100.00 per share representing 30,000,000 of such shares. Ayala Corporation is reserving the right to increase the offer size to a maximum of 58,000,000 Preferred Class "B" shares worth P5,800,000,000 in the event of oversubscription, subject to the Commission's requirements.

According to the papers presented, the following persons are the officers/directors of Ayala Corporation:

Board of Directors (as of April 7, 2006):
Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II
Fernando Zobel de Ayala
Aristón Estrada, Jr.
Meneleo J. Carlos Jr.
Xavier P. Loinaz
Mercedita S. Nolledo
Masakazu Okabayashi

Executive Officers (as of April 7, 2006):

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
Fernando Zobel de Ayala	President and Chief Operating Officer
Aristón Estrada, Jr.	Adviser to the Chairman
Mercedita S. Nolledo	Senior Managing Director and Corporate Secretary
Gerardo C. Ablaza, Jr.	Senior Managing Director
Delfin L. Lazaro	Chief Finance Officer
Antonino T. Aquino	Managing Director
Jaime I. Ayala	Managing Director
Charles C. Cosgrove	Managing Director
Aurelio R. Montinola III	Member, Management Committee
Arthur R. Tan	Managing Director
Rufino Luis T. Manotok	Managing Director and Corporate Information Officer
Renato O. Marzan	Managing Director and Assistant Corporate Secretary and Compliance Officer
Ramon G. Opulencia	Managing Director and Treasurer
John Philip S. Orbeta	Managing Director

The Registration Statement, as well as the papers attached thereto are available for inspection during business hours at the Securities and Exchange Commission, EDSA, Mandaluyong. Copies of the Registration Statement will be furnished to interested parties at such reasonable charge as the Commission may prescribe.

(ORIGINAL SIGNED)
Justina Callangan, Director, Corporate Finance Department
Securities and Exchange Commission

RP may export sugar to Asia next year

THE PHILIPPINES MAY EXPORT sugar to Asian neighbors in 2007 amid expected higher output and a likely reduction in US demand, the head of the Philippine Sugar Millers' Association said on Thursday.

Jose Maria Zabaleta said the southeast Asian country may begin selling excess sugar to regional markets, such as Japan and Hong Kong, as production is forecast to hit 2.2 million tons next crop year from this year's 2.15 million tons level.

Manila's export quota for the US market may also drop to 138,000 tons next year from 216,000 tons this year, allowing it to sell excess sugar to other countries, Zabaleta said.

"I'm practically sure we're going to produce more next year," said Zabaleta. "We're exporting the excess to Asia."

He also said global prices of raw sugar may start to stabilize at around 14 cents per pound in two years from current prices at around 16 cents as sugar-producing countries raise output to meet higher demand.

"The Philippines now is planting sugarcane like crazy," he said. "In other countries, there's much greater planting."

"In two years, there will be enough sugar around. Unless of course there is a big war in the Middle East," Zabaleta said.

The popularity of ethanol, produced from sugar cane, as an alternative fuel to expensive crude oil pushed raw sugar prices to 25-year highs of 19.73 cents per lb in February.

July raw sugar on the New York Board of Trade settled 0.41 cents lower at 16.21 cents per lb on Wednesday.

The Philippines is a beneficiary of a US program to buy sugar from developing countries at prices higher than global market levels.

The country's US quota was raised to 216,438 tons in the current marketing year ending in September from 137,353 tons due to damage caused to sugar plantations in Louisiana and Florida from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

The increased quota forced the Philippines to import sugar this year, the first time in four years.

The Philippine Sugar Regulatory Administration said domestic sugar output was expected to increase by 5-8 percent in the 2006/2007 crop year due to the high price of the sweetener at home and in world markets.

The Philippines' annual sugar consumption has remained flat at 1.9 million tons to 2 million tons but it was forced this year to import about 50,000 tons of sugar from Europe to meet its US export quota. *Reuters*

Imports rose 8% in March to $4.14B

From page B1

Bulk of the country's imports are electronics components used as raw materials for finished electronics goods, the country's main exports.

Arroyo attributed the growth in electronics imports to expectations by Philippine exporters of an increase in global demand for electronic goods like cellular phones and personal computers.

"The growth in imports was partly due to the global cycle of electronics. Last year was bad, and now demand is on an upturn," Arroyo said.

The NSO also reported that the country's trade deficit in March dropped to only $12 million, 98 percent lower than the $564 million recorded during the same month last year.

On a cumulative basis, the trade deficit stood at $276 million in the first quarter, 72 percent down from that of the same period in 2005.

The balance of trade—either a deficit or a surplus—is the difference between exports and imports.

The trade deficit shrank as exports grew at a faster pace than the expansion in imports. The country's exports grew by 26 percent to $4.13 billion in March, and by 14 percent to $10.9 billion in the first quarter.

Renato Reside, economics professor from the University of the Philippines, said the decline in the trade deficit was a sign the economy would be headed for a pick-up. He noted that economic output, as measured by the gross domestic product, is determined by the amount of consumption, investments, government spending and balance of trade. A lower trade deficit therefore would help keep the country post a higher GDP growth.

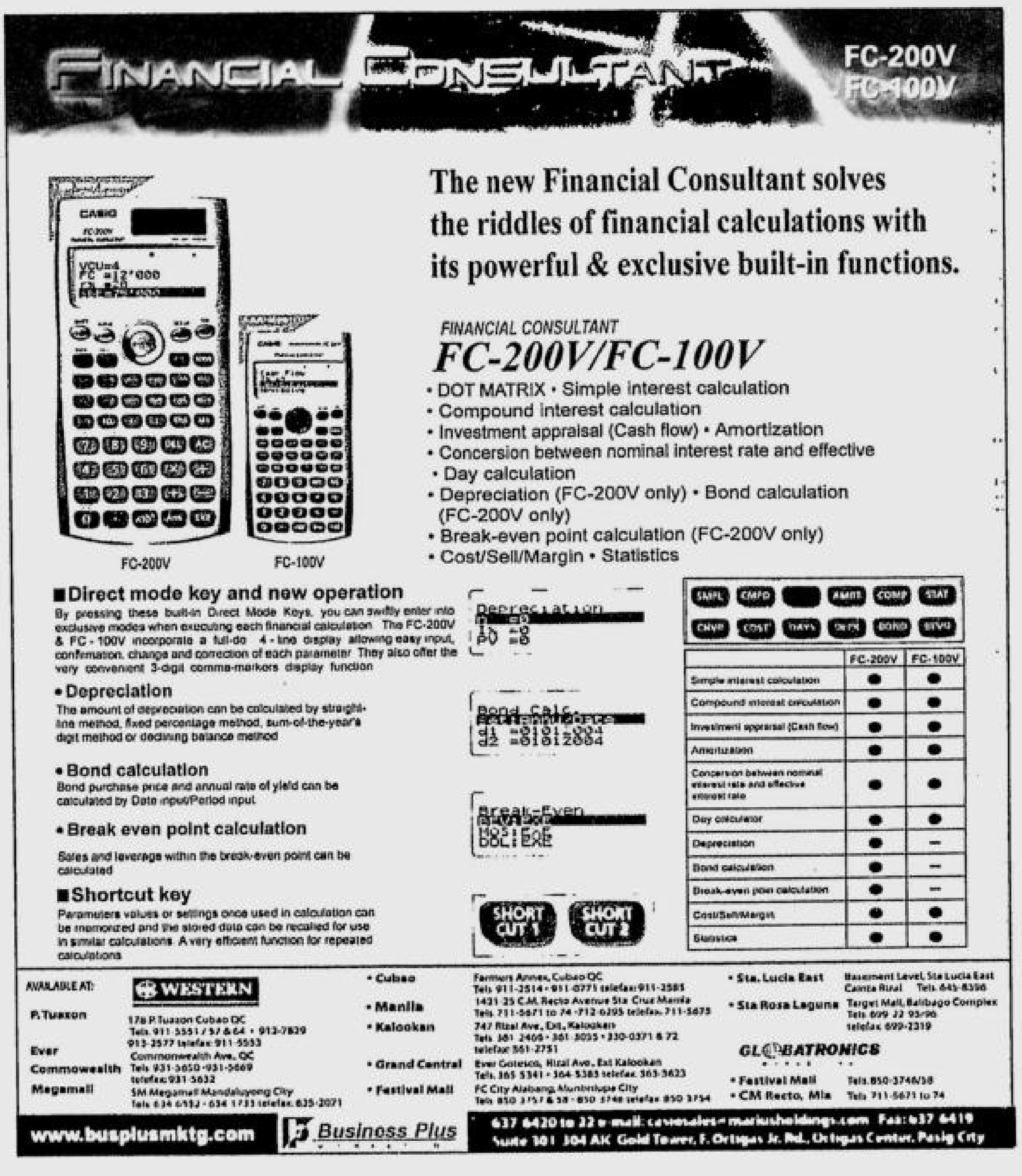
The government has set a GDP growth target of between 5.5 and 6.2 percent for the year compared with last year's 5.1 percent.

The economist, however, said challenges confronting the country's growth potentials remained. He stressed the need to reduce the government's budget deficit, such as through lifting unnecessary fiscal incentives, to help lower interest rates and therefore encourage more investments from export-oriented firms.

The NSO said imports in March were led by electronics, which grew 3.6 percent year-on-year to $1.88 billion. Mineral fuels, lubricants and related materials followed with $615 million, or 29.4 percent higher than the previous year's.

Other top imports for March were cereal and cereal preparations ($167.74 million), industrial machinery and equipment ($158.27 million), transport equipment ($134.36 million), garments ($90.98 million), plastics ($86.4 million), chemicals ($80.13 million), iron and steel ($71.72 million), and telecommunication and electrical machinery ($69.26 million).

Biggest sources of imports in March were the United States, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan, China, Korea, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Thailand.



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Concersion between nominal interest rate and effective interest rate	●	●
Day calculator	●	●
Depreciation	●	–
Bond calculation	●	–
Break-even point calculation	●	–
Cost/Sell/Margin	●	●
Statistics	●	●

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Mango, bamboo buoy Pangasinan city economy

San Carlos considered leading expert in mango industry

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN CARLOS CITY—A FRUIT and a species of grass have been keeping this central Pangasinan city's economy afloat.

The production of mangoes in this city (pop: 170,000) has helped propel Pangasinan to the list of provinces that turn in the biggest harvests of mango in the country, said Mayor Julian Resuello.

About 2,200 hectares in the city are planted to mango.

San Carlos has 200,000 mango trees, 150,000 of which are fruit bearing, he said.

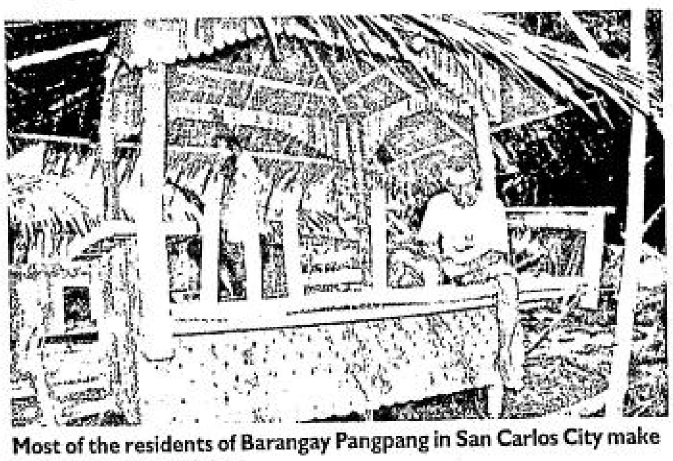
Apart from San Carlos, growers in other Pangasinan towns are producing similarly sweet mangoes of the carabao variety, Resuello said.

But what sets San Carlos apart, he said, was its reputation as a trading center of mangoes produced in other parts of the province.

He said only 20 percent of mangoes traded in the city are from San Carlos.

The remaining 80 percent come from other Pangasinan towns.

He said even exporters come here to buy mangoes.



Most of the residents of Barangay Pangpang in San Carlos City make bamboo huts for a living.

But more than producing the fruits, the city has produced residents who are skilled in mango production and are hired by orchard owners.

These residents have learned various techniques in mango growing and orchard tending from their ancestors.

They started with "smudging" or inducing the trees to flower through smoking.

When chemicals took the place of smudging, residents learned how to spray the trees with potassium nitrate so these would bloom.

Resuello said orchard workers from the city were scattered in more than 13 provinces that produce mangoes.

"Try asking mango orchard owners who takes care of their trees and they will say 'someone from San Carlos City,'" he said.

Local mango producers, the mayor said, are updated on the latest technology through the mango field school of the Department of Agriculture and the office of the provincial agriculturist.

However, the city has no processing plant for mango and the fruit is sold fresh to local and international buyers.

Resuello said apart from mangoes, bamboo craft provides livelihood to the city's residents.

He said the city has about 200 kilometers of rivers and creeks and their banks are planted to bamboo.

The city grows the bamboo varieties locally known as "kawayan tua" and "kawayan bayog."

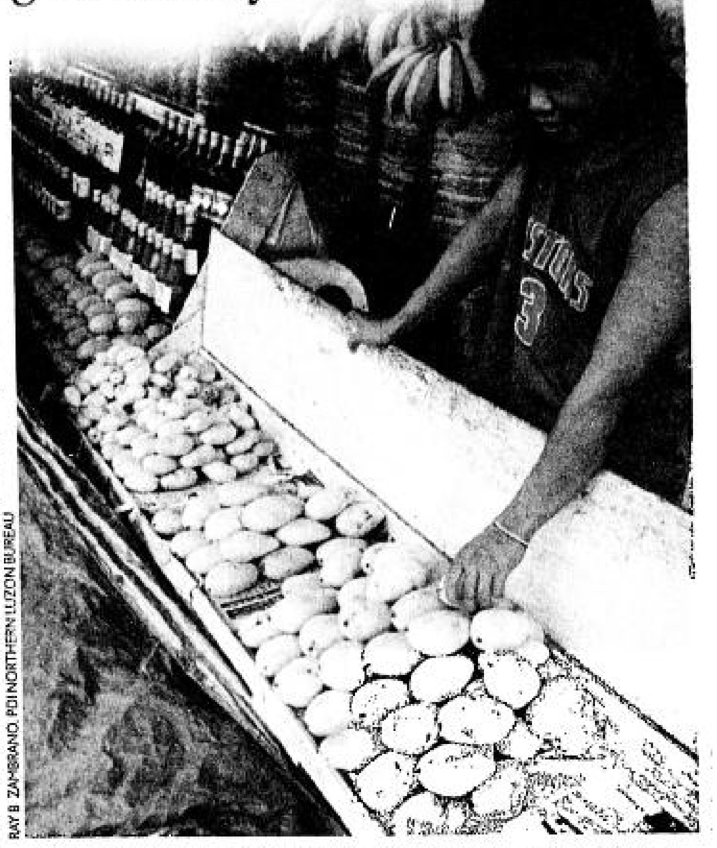
The "kawayan tua" is turned into *kaing* (woven baskets for mangoes) and baskets for different purposes and some decorative pieces.

Resuello said the city also takes pride in being the birthplace of the movable *bahay kubo* (hut made of bamboo and nipa) that is usually put in gardens and where families and friends can converge.

Some models of the bahay kubo, which sell from P10,000 to P35,000, feature a living room, a bedroom and a kitchen.

Resuello said residents of at least 17 villages also found a living in turning bamboo into pieces of furniture.

The city government has allotted a space for traders to display and sell their bamboo products.



RAY B. ZAMBRANO, PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A FRUIT vendor shows off his ripe mangoes. San Carlos City is known in the country as one of the best places to buy the sweet fruit.

To survive, local textile exporters need to diversify

By Ronnel W. Domingo

LOCAL GARMENTS AND TEXTILE EXPORTERS would have to diversify its markets if they expect to survive a quota-less global trade, according to a United Nations study that covered at least 10 developing countries in the Asia-Pacific.

The study, "Sewing Thoughts: How to Realize Human Development Gains in the Post-Quota World," analyzed the effects on trade flows in the markets a year after the worldwide Agreement on Textiles and Clothing had expired.

The study covered Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Fiji, Maldives and Mongolia.

The UN Development Program found that strong exports of knitted products from the Philippines to the United States, which rose nearly 25 percent in 2005, helped to offset a drop of about two-thirds in overall textile and clothing exports from the country to the European Union.

Data compiled by UNDP's Regional Center in Sri Lanka show that Philippine textile and clothing exports increased 5.6 percent to $2.5 billion in 2005 from $2.4 billion in 2004.

In terms of volume, the exporters shipped out a total of about 286.7 million kilograms of products in 2005 or 0.6 percent higher than the previous year.

"(But) the growth of exports in ready-made garments and other textile made-ups was offset by a 13.8-percent decline in textile products," the study said.

Also, the paper found that while Asia-Pacific's overall share in the United States and European Union markets increased without quotas, more competitive countries are "pushing smaller players to the brink of collapse."

Seaoil to import more ethanol

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE RECENTLY gave Seaoil Petroleum Corp. a new license to bring ethanol into the country, allowing the company to replenish its supply and continue selling ethanol-blended gasoline to motorists.

Seaoil president Glenn Yu said that with the issuance of this license, the oil firm would now be importing 2.5 million liters of ethanol from Brazil.

Its new ethanol supply should be in the country by next month, he said.

The 2.5 million liters that Seaoil would be importing, however, were just enough for its own requirements, he said.

He related that when Seaoil launched its ethanol-blended gasoline in August last year, the plan was to sell ethanol to other new oil players, to enable them to sell ethanol-blended gasoline directly from their pumps as well.

However, the first permit that the BIR issued to Seaoil prevented the oil firm from selling to other companies, he said.

"We wanted to do it with the other new players, but we got restrictions, pending the issuance of the implementing rules and regulations (of an executive order slashing ethanol tariff from 10 percent to 1 percent)," he said.

To jumpstart the country's bio-ethanol fuel program, President Macapagal-Arroyo on July 22 issued EO 449, which would reduce the tariff on bio-ethanol imports from 10 percent to 1 percent.

Covered by the tariff reduction are bio-ethanol imports that would be used for the government's Fuel Ethanol Program, as certified by the Department of Energy.

Since the issuance of the EO, however, the government had yet to issue its IRR.

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¹The ANSI (max) lumens rating is based on ANSI/NAPM IT7.228-1997 tests of 28 units in August 2004 with a projector mean ANSI lumens of 1777 and maximum ANSI lumens of 2012. The ANSI (max) lumens specifications are provided to enable customers to accurately compare HP digital projector's lumens with the lumens range of other vendors. Lamp brightness will decline with use. Replacing the used lamp with a new factory lamp will restore the projector's output to its original brightness range.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2516, Series of 2006.

Semirara sales up 38%

STRONGER COAL DEMAND BY local cement manufacturers pushed Semirara Mining Corp. total sales to 600,026 metric tons for the first quarter of this year, up 38 percent from 435,332 MTs sold in the same period last year.

The surge in coal sales resulted in higher operating income of P367.8 million, 9 percent higher than last year's P337 million. Higher sales, combined with foreign exchange gains, also boosted Semirara's profit before tax to P378.3 million, P31.4 million higher than the P346.9 million recorded during the first quarter last year.

The company, however, had to pay P108.1 million for income taxes, 13.6 times more than last year's P8 million as the company's incentives were exhausted last year.

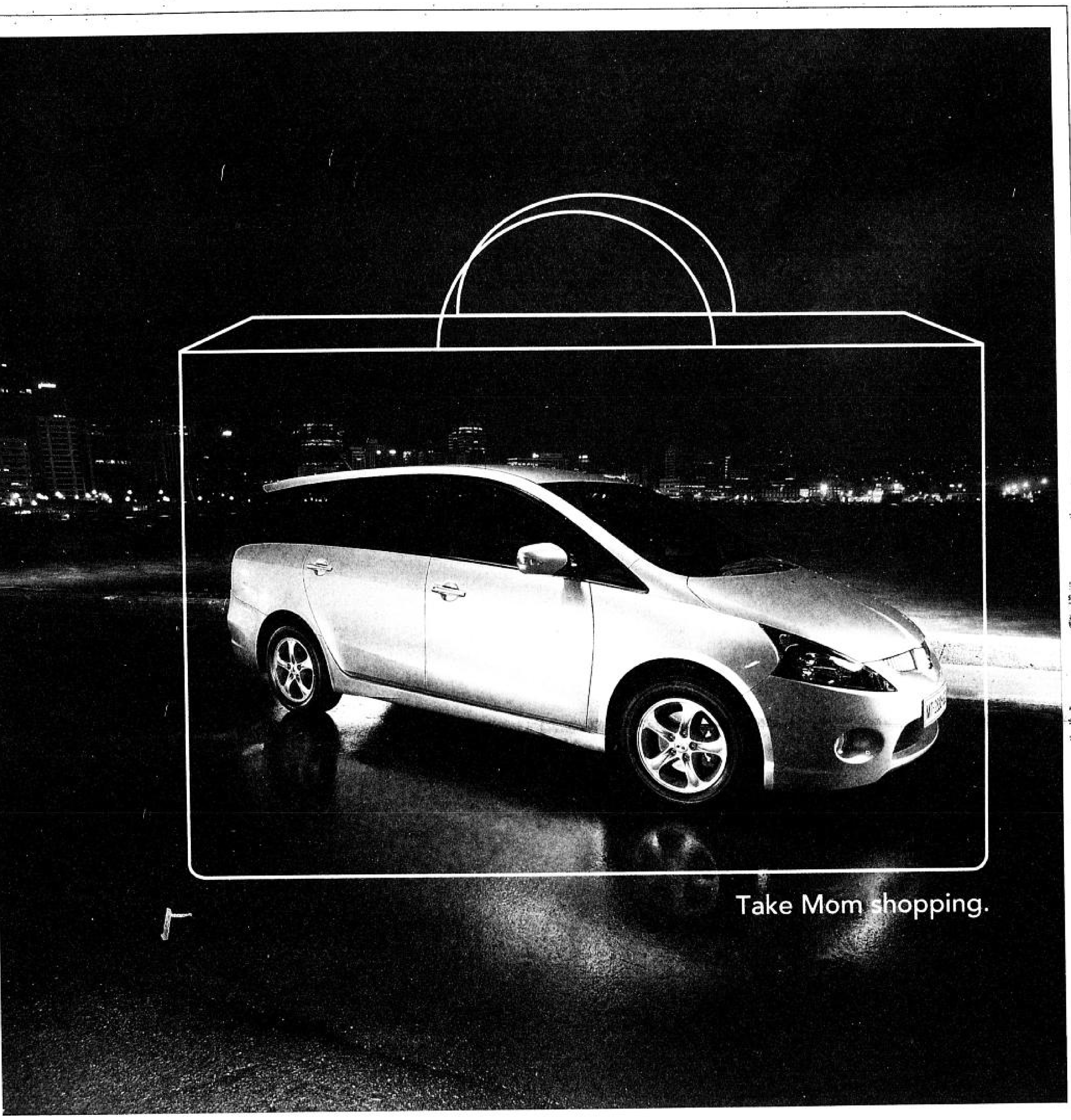
This pulled down Semirara's net income to P270.2 million, 20 percent lower than last year's performance of P338 million.

Napocor's Calaca plants continued to be the company's single biggest buyer of coal with 304,730 MT, or 52 percent higher than the purchase volume of 200,106 MT during the first quarter of 2005.

The PNOC-Exploration Corp.'s demand for coal also rose by 87 percent to 143,667 MT as its delivery to Napocor's Naga plant surged to 24,740 MT from 9,728 MT for the same period last year, while its deliveries to cement plants likewise rose by 77 percent from 67,019 MTs to 118,927 MT.

Semirara's combined sales in the cement industry grew by 129,526 MTs or 133 percent higher than the first quarter of 2005. The company said higher oil prices are making cheaper coal a preferred alternative to many industries. Coal prices remained stable between P2,260 to P2,264 a MT.

Cost of sales for the period amounted to P958.68 million, resulting in a gross profit ratio of 31 percent, lower by 9 percent from the 40 percent recorded in the same quarter last year.



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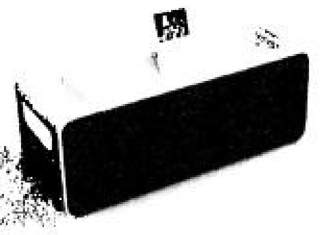

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Nike Outlet a big hit in Paseo De Santa Rosa, Greenfield

1 AND 2 Nike Park outlets in Paseo De Santa Rosa continue to attract diverse customers.

IT SEEMED UNLIKELY FOR A MAJOR sporting brand like Nike to open an outlet store outside of Metro Manila. Owner Miguel Celdran did not think so. He looked at a good spot to showcase Nike's quality, markdown-priced shoes and gear and opted for Greenfield City's commercial hub, Paseo De Santa Rosa.

Celdran relates, "Actually, I looked for a place in the North like Bulacan, but I was not able to find a place as great as Paseo De Santa Rosa. So, when a space was offered to me I grabbed it!"

One among the pioneering outlet stores in Paseo De Santa Rosa, Nike easily picked up not only by customers in and around Sta. Rosa but Manila as well.

"It was a pleasant surprise really. Initially, we thought we would only be catering to the local market. When Paseo De Santa Rosa suddenly became a shopping destination, it opened our store to a bigger market," revealed Celdran.

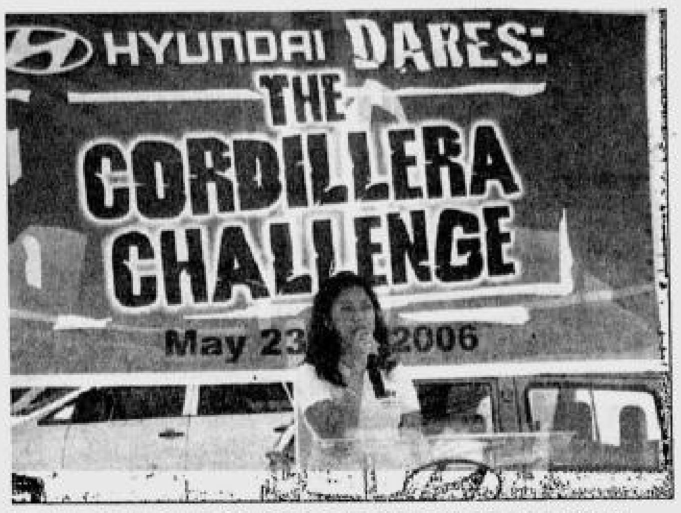
The success of Nike in Sta. Rosa also led to the opening of stores in Alabang and Lipa, Batangas. Celdran was adamant it even topped sales over other outlets, "When I opened a store here, it was merely to sell our so-called dated products. It was more like a clearance house. It was a pleasant surprise that it did pretty well, even better than our Manila shops."

Celdran believes frequent shoppers troop to the store because it offers a lot of choices, "Most of the goods sold here come from our Manila stores so shoppers can choose from a wide array of footwear and apparel at discounted rates."

Celdran is quite optimistic other fashion brands will follow suit, "I'm very impressed at the way Greenfield Development Corp is managing Paseo De Santa Rosa. With the good turnout of Nike and the ongoing expansion, I am seriously looking into opening outlets for our other brands like United Colors of Benetton, Sisley and Gas jeans!"

Paseo De Santa Rosa, touted as the country's first outlet supercenter, is the retail and commercial component of Greenfield City. It is envisioned to become a town center that provides valued services to cater to varying customers' taste and preferences.

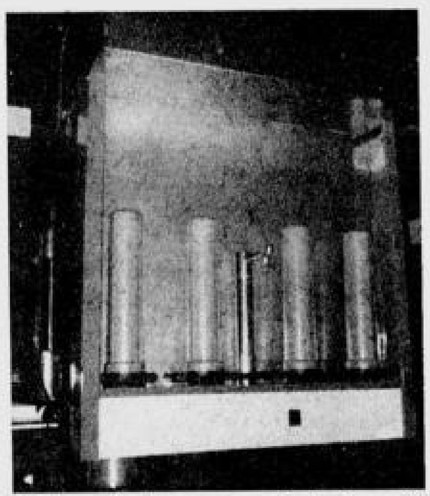
Boost your business today. Be among Paseo De Santa Rosa successful tenants. Call 420-8003 or (049) 541-2845, e-mail marketing@greenfield.com.ph or log on to www.greenfield.com.ph.



HYUNDAI READY FOR CORDILLERA CHALLENGE

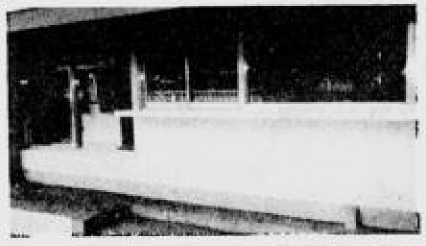
Fe Perez-Agudo, EVP and COO of Hyundai Asia Resources Inc, speaks at the kick-off ceremonies of the 'Hyundai Dares the Cordillera Challenge' at its dealership in Balintawak, Quezon City, recently. Hyundai highlighted the importance of the 4-day road test of its CRDi vehicles, namely the Getz, Matrix, Accent, Tucson and Starex, as they drive through and conquer the various terrains and road conditions from Manila to the Cordillera and northern Ilocos region and then back to Manila. According to Perez-Agudo, Hyundai was taking on this new and exciting challenge of pushing its vehicles to the extremes of Philippine automotive driving 'to prove the dependable power, fuel-efficiency and performance of the CRDi-powered vehicles of Hyundai.'

High-purity water station



ELECTROMEX IS THE COUNTRY'S fastest and largest-selling compact, stand-alone, transportable germ-free water refilling station with its popular UHP500. Costing only P150,000 (complete set) and an output of 3,000 gallons per day, you only have to provide a deep well or an MWSS source (2 meter x 3 meter space) and a 220-volt outlet to start your own water-refilling station business.

The UHP500 uses an American-designed heavy duty industrial ozone gas (O3) generator, which is 300 times more potent than chlorine in killing germs and bacteria. The UHP500 comes fully assembled with stainless tanks, filters, carbon, pumps, pipes, skid, panels, UV germicidal lamp and the powerful Ozonator to destroy bacteria and eliminate lead, mercury, and other harmful elements.



At only 30 centavos per gallon, the UHP500 is more profitable than expensive reverse osmosis systems, and wastes no water. For more information, call 531-6782 or 535-9069, or log on to www.electromex-inc.com.

Guide to search warrants

THE FACT IS THAT A GOOD NUMBER OF PEOPLE do not know what to do-especially in the first few seconds-when faced with a search warrant or warrant of arrest. You can start arming yourself with the knowledge in correct legal procedures and the extent of your rights, which will enable you to prevent and handle difficult situations and protect yourself, your family, and your business interests from unwarranted agitation. The Center for Global Best Practices (www.cgbp.org) will be holding a one-day seminar titled "Businessman's Guide to Handling Search Warrants & Warrants of Arrest" today at The Conservatory, Peninsula Manila in Makati City. The "business self-defense program" features expert speakers who will present the theoretical and experiential aspects of search warrants, seizures, and warrants of arrest. For inquiries, call Center for Global Best Practices at 842-7148/59.

Wine appreciation

THE CENTER FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION (CCE), a unit under the Ateneo Graduate School of Business (AGSB) is now offering the Executive Culture Series. The first of this series is Wine Appreciation and Dining-out for Executives which will be held on May 26 at the Ateneo Professional Schools Building in Salcedo and on May 27 at Chateau 1771 El Pueblo Restaurant. For more information, call Ibsky Romero at 894-4868, Ibskycce@yahoo.com or log on to http://www.cce.ateneo.edu.

MDH, PBM SIGN MOA FOR BINGOT PROGRAM

Manila Doctors Hospital (MDH), Manila's first and only ISO certified hospital and the Philippine Band of Mercy (PBM), recently signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA), renewing their commitment to provide free medical assistance to Filipinos suffering from cleft lip and palate or 'bingot'. Under the program, indigents who want to avail themselves of this benefit must be Philhealth cardholders. They will also need to undergo strict evaluation by the MDH corporate social responsibility department, ensuring that they are qualified to receive charitable assistance. Once approved, MDH and PBM will provide the patient with medical services, treatment and rehabilitation. For more details, call 524-3011 local 3110. Shown from left are Aniceto M. Sobrepeña, president, MDH; Jesus Perez Cardenas, president, PBM; Dr. Rex M. Mendoza, OIC and administrative director, MDH and Dr. Alfredo Pontejos, chair, MDH, department of ENT.

OBITUARIES

"...Just as the son of man did not come
to be served but to serve."
...Matthew 28:29

Serviam Catholic Charismatic Community Foundation, Inc.
And
Serviam Catholic Charismatic Community

Deeply mourn the loss of their Servant Leader

Antonio "Sonny" Bayan de los Reyes

His body lies in state at the Plaza San Agustin
Sta. Potenciana cor. Sta. Lucia Sts., Intramuros, Manila

He is forever cherished by his wife **Barbara**,
Children **Bugsy** & **Joshua**, **JC** & **Dunia**,
Maricris (†), **Amelia Ann** & **Sonny**,
Grandchildren **Uno**, **Cristina**, **Rafael**, **Gabby**, **Sonnyboy**,
Barbie, **Miguel**, **Isabel** and **Franco**,
Brothers and sisters, mother-in-law **Amelia J. Gordon**,
relatives, friends and by his brothers and sisters in the
Serviam Community.

Interment will be on Sunday, May 28, 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

In lieu of flowers, love offerings to the Jubilee Homes
for the Poor and Olongapo City
Boys and Girls' Home will be greatfully appreciated.

AMADOR "Dit" BUENASEDA, JR.

"A loving DAD and a giving FRIEND"

So deeply missed on his
3rd Death Anniversary, May 26, 2006
Masses will be offered
today at the following churches:

Veterans Medical/Memorial Center .... 7:15 a.m., & 12 p.m.
Ecumenical Chapel
St. Joseph the Worker Parish .... 6:00 p.m.
Balintawak, Caloocan City
Our Lady of Anunclation Parish .... 7:00 p.m.
Mindanao Ave., Quezon City

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Supervisory Leadership Enhancement

YOUR BUSINESS PERFORMANCE, TO A large extent, depends on how effective your supervisors lead your people. Remember, a supervisor may be technically competent but if he is handicapped by poor leadership skills, your company will not reach its full potential. Empower your leaders. Let them attend the very important seminar on Developing Your Supervisory Leadership slated on June 2, 1:00 5:00 p.m. at Holiday Inn Galleria Manila, Ortigas.

This seminar is sponsored by Porter and Miles, Inc., a premier training company on business, management, marketing, sales and human resource development, with office address at Suite 2502-C Tektite Tower East, Ortigas Center. Call Mercy at 638-7719 / 20 for more information / reservation. Hurry! Call us now while there are still seats available.

"Whoever believes in Me will Live, even though he dies."
John 11:25

UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM-JONELTA
UNIVERSITY OF PERPETUAL HELP SYSTEM-DALTA
UPHS-Laguna, UPHS-DJTMU, UPHS-GMA, UPHS-Malasique, UPHS-Cauayan
UPHS-Las Piñas, UPHS-Calamba, UPHS-Molino
Foundation for Medicine & Allied Health
UPHR-Jonelta Foundation School of Medicine
University Savings & Loan Bank: Manila, Las Piñas, Molino, Biñan
University of Perpetual Help Medical Center: Manila, Las Piñas, Biñan

extend their deepest sympathy and condolences to the family of

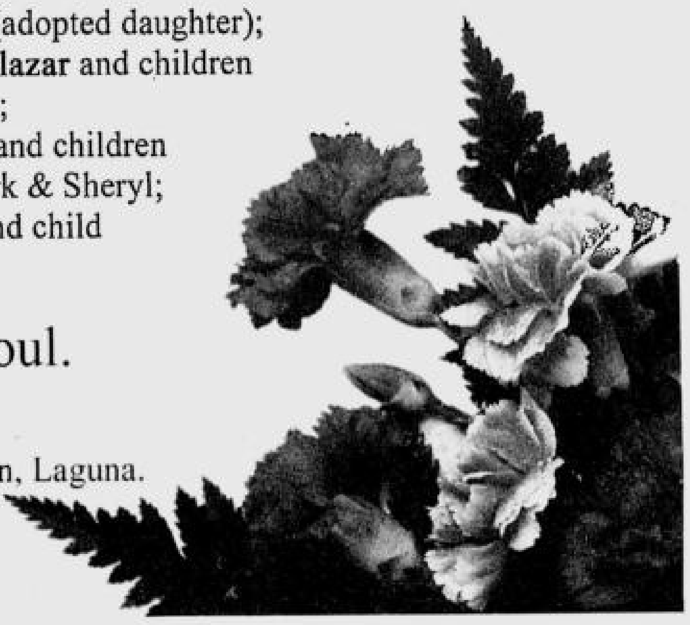
Mr. Mauro L. Tamayo

Vice-President for Sports
Son and Member, Founding Family of late Dr. Jose G. Tamayo & Dr. Josefina L. Tamayo
University of Perpetual Help System and JONELTA Group of Companies

Died in the Grace of our Lord on May 24, 2006 at the age of 46

leaving behind his beloved wife **Jessica Pascual** and children Maica, Jomas & Candy (adopted daughter); siblings **Tony & Daisy Moran** and children Anthony & Richard; **Tessie & Nestor Salazar** and children Mike, Kit, Ria & Steve; **Nito & Karen** and children Nicky & Kenny; **Arcadio & Nympha** and children Arni, Arnyl, AJ, Al J & Anny; **Bert & Edna** and children Winnie, Odon, Rona, Nina & Ana; **Bing & Cora** and children Mervin, Jay, Mark & Sheryl; **Paeng & Baby** and children JR & JP; **Pinky; Winky & Rolly Tampoya** and child RJ; **Yayang; Butch & Marla** and children Joey, JV & Joelle

who request the pious readers to pray for his soul.



Mr. Mauro L. Tamayo's body lies in state at the
University of Perpetual Help System-Laguna Chapel in Brgy. Sto. Niño, Biñan, Laguna.
Interment will be announced later.

The Board of Directors, Officers and Staff of the

PASIG CHAMBER FINANCE AND INVESTMENT CORPORATION
Formerly Chamber Lending Corporation
(CHALECO)

mourn the death of its Founding Chairman

JUSTO E. MANALO

who passed away on May 25, 2006
at the age of 73.

We extend our condolences to
his family and loved ones and join
the pious readers in praying for
the eternal repose of his soul.

The body lies in state at Chapel-C of Christ the King Church,
Green Meadows Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Saturday, May 27, 2006 at the
Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City.

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LA/MAT 16600/2005 (DP13)
FCMC 13366/2005

IN THE DISTRICT COURTT OF THE
HONGKONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION
MATRIMONIAL CAUSES NO. 13366 OF 2006

BETWEEN

ELENITA VALENCIA — Petitioner
Also known as REYES, ELENITA V.

And

ANGELITO REYES — Respondent

A DIVORCE PETITION HAS BEEN FILED AGAINST THE UNDER-MENTIONED ANGELITO REYES, whose address is unknown, may apply at the Family Court Registry at M2, Wanchai Law Court, No.12 Harbour Road, Hong Kong SAR for a copy of the Petition and the accompany documents. If within one month he has not communicated with the Registry, the Court may hear the case in his absence.

Register

To be advertised as follows :-
Once in Philippine Daily Inquirer

(PDI--May 26, 2006)

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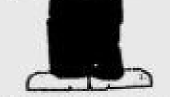
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ChinaBank dollar savings accounts and certificate of time deposits of the late DIVINA B. PERALTA was adjudicated thru Extra-Judicial Settlement by her surviving heirs and shall be released thru S.P.A. Jesus B. Peralta as per Doc. No. 388, Page 77, Book IV, Series of 2006, of Notary Public Henry S. Banares, ARN 19348.

(PDI-- May 12, 19 & 26, 2006)



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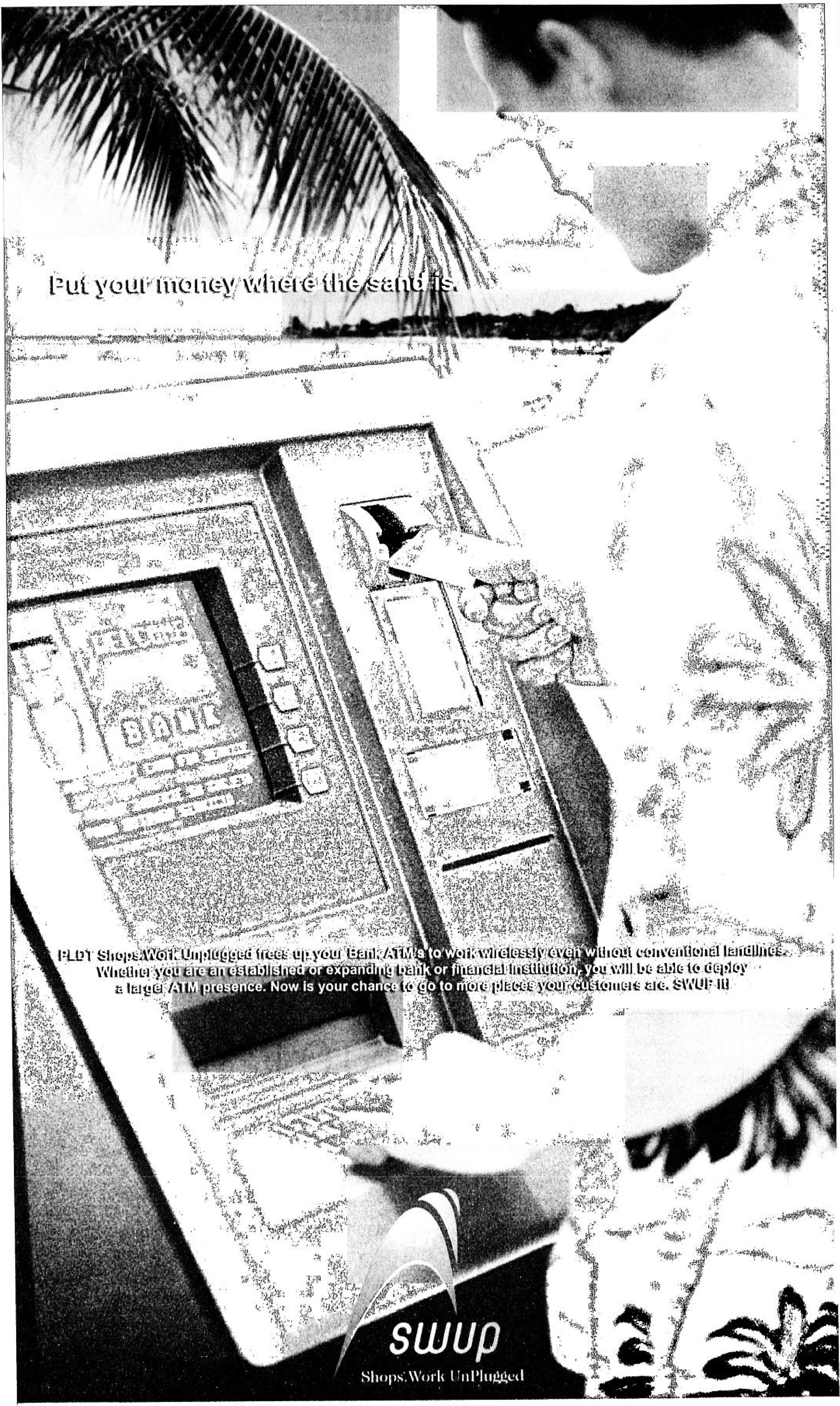
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There's no recipe like the tried and tested one

AGA Muhlach (3rd from left) helps beef up sales of Jollibee in the US.

Fast food finds out best way to compete in the US is to be who you are

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

WHEN JOLLIBEE Foods Corp. opened a branch in the United States eight years ago, it was an instant hit.

Waiting time for a meal on opening day was two hours.

But that was all it was—a flash in the pan.

It took a while for the most successful Filipino brand to find its place in the land of milk and honey. And it only did when it used the same recipe that made it beat the world's biggest burger chain in the Philippines—serve food that Filipinos love in the manner that Filipinos like.

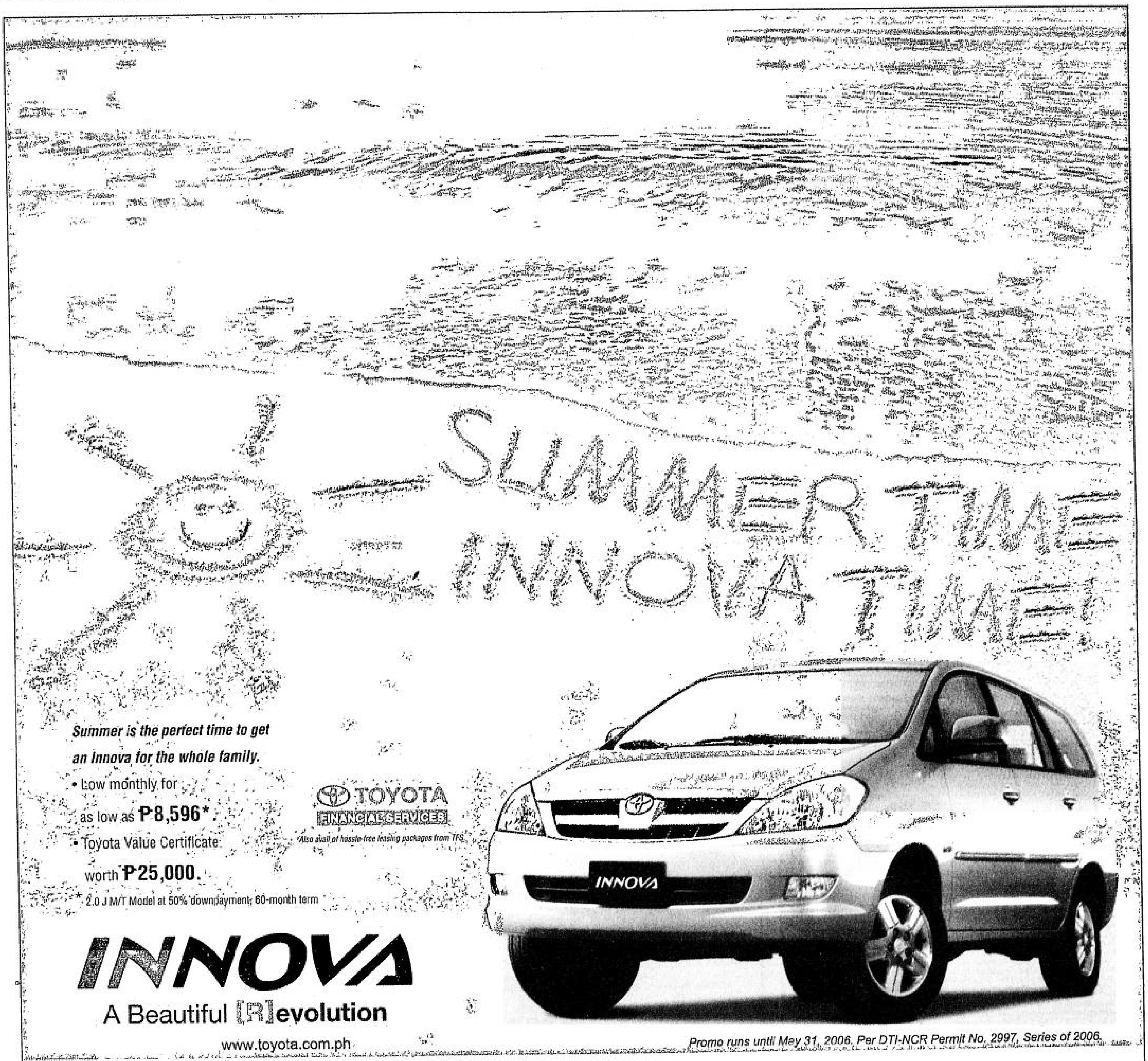
For the past years, although Jollibee continued to expand in the US West Coast, where the majority of over two million Filipinos in the US live, sales were less than sterling in its 10 branches.

"Stores there were doing okay, but not flying," says Jollibee VP for Marketing Inez S. Reyes. "We had complaints regarding the service and the taste. Nobody was raving about it."

The US branches then were under a totally different group and the complaints were aired to relatives or friends who ate in the US branches. For eight years, things were ran pretty much the same, with the US team making the decisions.

Last year, however, major changes were made. All foreign branches were placed under the same group in the Philippines, which is headed by Ernesto Tan-

THERE'S/ B2-2



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Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation
South Luzon Operations and Maintenance
Trans Co

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire (OHGW) along Calaca-Sta. Rosa 230kV Transmission Line (From BCFTPP Gantry to Tower No. 112)

The proposed project is located in Batangas Province with an estimated length of 39.935 linear kilometers. The work contemplated to be done by the successful bidder shall consist of furnishing all superintendence, labor and materials, supplies, tools and equipment and other incidentals necessary for the complete replacement of corroded overhead ground wire including line hardwares in accordance with the requirements of the Plans and Specifications.

[TRANS-05-RCOGWCSR-EG-08]

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM***, through the *Internal Cash Generation (ICG)* intends to apply the sum of *Three Million One Hundred Thousand (Php3,100,000.00)* being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the *Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire (OHGW) along Calaca-Sta. Rosa 230kV Transmission Line (From BCFTPP Gantry 1 to Tower No. 112)*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** now invites potential Bidders to submit Letter of Intent (LOI) and apply for eligibility for the *Refurbishment of Corroded Overhead Ground Wire (OHGW) along Calaca-Sta. Rosa 230kV Transmission (From BCFTPP Gantry to Tower No. 112)*. Bidders should possess a valid ***PCAB license with License Particular of at least: "Category D & C, Electrical Works" and Registration Particular of at least: "Small B, Electrical Works (Power Transmission and Distribution),"*** respectively, have completed a similar contract involving supply of all labor, materials, supervision necessary for the *refurbishment of corroded overhead ground wire*. The value of which should be at least 50% of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the eligibility documents. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for submission of eligibility documents shall be on the same date of the opening of Eligibility documents: ***June 9, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the address mentioned in the next succeeding paragraphs. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Document. Completion of the works is required by *sixty (60) working days*.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only bids from Bidders who passed the eligibility check will be opened. The Bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine its responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall secure the Eligibility documents from the BAC Secretariat at the address stated below, starting ***May 22 – June 8, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.*** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Php1,000.00*. They shall submit their accomplished Eligibility documents on or before ***June 9, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the stated address. Eligibility Screening shall be held on ***June 9, 2006, 9:30 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room B of the stated address.

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)*** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from ***8:00 A.M.*** to ***5:00 P.M.*** on ***June 19 – 23, 2006***.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Php5,000.00*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative starting ***June 19-23, 2006, 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.***

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Eligible Bidders on ***June 28, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the OAVP Conference Room Transco, SLOM San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna.

Deadline for submission of bids is on ***July 12, 2006, 9:00 A.M.*** at the address below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the prescribed form indicated under Section 27.2 of R.A. 9184. Bid opening shall be on the same date, ***July 12, 2005, 9:30 A.M.*** at the ***OAVP Conference Room B of Transco SLOM***. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The ***NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION-SLOM*** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation – South Luzon Operations & Maintenance
Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO)
San Vicente, Biñan, Laguna 4024
Mr. Ruben G. Castuera – BAC Chairman
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4094; 4086; 4053
rgcastuera@transco.ph
(02) 981-4576 to 78 local 4007
www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) RUBEN G. CASTUERA
BAC Chairman

(PDI–May 20 & 26, 2006)

BCDA

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

Construction of Twelve (12) Overpasses in Bataan and Tarlac

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), through the BCDA 2006 Corporate Funds intends to apply the sum of **Pesos: TWO HUNDRED EIGHT MILLION TWO HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND (P208,208,000.00)** for the projects listed hereunder, being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The Services shall be for the Contract for the Construction of Twelve (12) Overpasses in Tarlac and Bataan. The works shall include, but not limited to the following:

Construction of the Following Overpasses:

- Tinang Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Sto. Nino Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Ligaya I Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Pitabunan Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Mabilog Overpass- Luisita I at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Pando Overpass – Luisita II at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Ligaya II Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Ligaya III Overpass (Maligaya) at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Sta. Maria Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Palanas Overpass at Concepcion, Tarlac;
- Maite Overpass at Hemosa, Bataan; and
- San Ramon Overpass at Dinalupihan, Bataan

BCDA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Re-bidding for Construction of the aforecited Project. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract (at least AAA, Large B, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Applicants must submit their LOIs from **29 to 31 May 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** only and obtain the Application for Eligibility to Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Twenty Thousand (P20,000.00)** at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: **20 June 2006 at 11:00 a.m.** and the **Opening at 1:30 p.m.** at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. **Late submission of Eligibility Documents shall be accepted only for recording purposes but will not be considered and will be returned unopened.** Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the SCTEP BAC Secretariat at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City on or before **20 June 2006 at 11:00 a.m.**

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from BCDA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on 27 June 2006**.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC-B Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of **Pesos: Fifty Thousand (P50,000.00)**. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative **from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on 27 to 30 June 2006**.

BCDA will hold a Pre-Bid Conference and Site Inspection open to all Eligible Bidders on **16 August 2006 at 1:30 p.m.** at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before **30 August 2006 at 11:00 a.m.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form:

a. Cash, managers check, cashiers' check, irrevocable letter of credit, or bank draft - one percent (1%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract
b. Bank Guarantee – one and a half percent (1½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract
c. Surety Bond from a reputable insurance company accredited by the Insurance Commission – two and a half percent (2½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract

Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **30 August 2006 at 1:30 p.m.** at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on the same day.

Completion of the Works is required by a total of Two Hundred Eighty Five (285) calendar days.

BCDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Further information may be obtained from Ms. Nancy Pajo, Head of SCTEP - BAC Secretariat.

BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St.
Crescent Park West, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Telephone Number (632) 816-6666 Telfax No. (632) 816-0996
Website: www. bcda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) VICTOR V. ZABLAN
Chairman, SCTEP - BAC

(PDI–May 21 & 26, 2006)

New Asap officers look inward to strengthen group

THE ADVERTISING SUPPLIERS Association of the Philippines (Asap) enters its 28th year with a new mission—to look inward and institute changes that will strengthen its core sectors in order to further enhance the culture of quality in terms of performance, delivery and products, and reinforce its role as a reliable and creative partner of the advertising industry.

With a new set of officers inducted last February, Asap vows to get its members involved in its formation and organizational activities, and not just in its traditional events like conferences and anniversary celebrations.

This early, the new Asap board has started to see positive indicators:

- "Pocket meetings" spurred by formerly "quiet" sectors, like commercial production houses, graphic designers and special promo merchandising, technical services and service talents. The pocket meetings aimed to address and find solutions for the specific issues and concerns of the sector.
- Spreading awareness, through the active dissemination, of the tripartite memorandum of agreement (MOA) on advertising and trade practices which was signed in December 2004 by the heads of Pana, 4As and Asap. The MOA outlines in detail the business procedures and practices geared to "promote the principles of fair and honest norms in the conduct of advertising supply services." It includes a code of ethics to ensure the highest standards of professionalism and service excellence among members of Asap.

AD BUZZ

In addition, Asap encourages members to tap co-members in outsourcing requirements.

Sixth edition of Black Book

The recently released sixth edition of the Asap Black Book, the guide to Philippine advertising services, is now making the rounds of key trade fairs.

The latest edition is especially opportune as those who traditionally provide goods and services to the advertising industry have ceased being mere "suppliers" but have become "full-fledged partners in a rapidly globalizing industry."

Thanks to the revolutionary changes in the way the world works, "a book designed in Manila, printed in Hong Kong and distributed in New York is no different from a full-length animated film, drawn largely by Filipino artists, assembled by American editors and digital effects experts, and shown in theaters on every continent."

Many clients now echo the vitality of relationships that have been nurtured over the years," wrote Khodr and Egay Navalta.

Pocket meetings highlight common concerns, set sector-specific programs

To demonstrate their commitment to the new Asap board's vision of strengthening the organization by focusing "inward," sectoral groups have begun conducting their own "pocket meetings." These are designed to address and find solutions for the specific concerns and issues affecting the sector.

Among those who have gotten together to hash out their concerns are: commercial production houses, graphic designers and special promo merchandising, special events, technical services, and service talents.

More pocket meetings are expected from Asap's other sectors.

The sectors saw commonality in some issues like delinquent payment and collection of service fees, and a need for the standardization of fees among members.

Moving forward, the special events group hopes to create its own sectoral guidelines on ethical practices and standards. A five-member committee has been tasked to draft these.

The service talents sector has proposed a series of workshops for professional talents.

Graphic designers recommended linking their individual websites to the Asap website to expand the network of its members and to highlight the advantage of being a member of Asap.

The technical and events sectors discussed safety guidelines following the Wowowee stampede at the old Ultra.

The Asap board is confident it will see the same results when the other sectors convene their own meetings.

Republic of the Philippines
PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
MACTAN ECONOMIC ZONE I
Lapu-lapu City
Tel Nos 3400590, 3400594, 3400591; Telefax No 3402949

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, through its MEZ, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Clean and Green and Facilities Maintenance Services in MEZ
Location	Mactan Economic Zone (MEZ), Ibo, Lapu-lapu City
Brief Description	Supply of Manpower, Tools and Equipment for the Clean and Green Maintenance and Facilities Maintenance of MEZ.
Approved Budget	P5,376,107.51
Contract Duration	12 months
Delivery Period	Within 30 days from receipt of Notice to Proceed

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and tools and equipment (owned) available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

	Activities	Schedule
1:	Issuance of Bid Documents	May 19 - 29, 2006
2.	Pre-bid Conference	May 30, 2006 2:00 p.m.
3.	Deadline for Submission and Opening of Bids	June 15, 2006 2:00 p.m.
4.	Bid Evaluation	June 16 - 21, 2006
5.	Post-Qualification	June 21 - 23, 2006

Complete set of Bid Documents will be available to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P2,500.00 to PEZA-MEZ I Cashier. Bids and other communications may be addressed to MEZ Bid and Awards Committee, 2nd Flr. PEZA Admin Bldg., MEZ I, Lapu-lapu City.

The pre-bid conference and opening of bids shall be conducted at the Conference Room, 2/F PEZA Administration Bldg., Mactan Economic Zone I, Lapu-lapu City.

The PEZA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and reject all bids at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) BELENA B. SUELLO
MEZ BAC Chairperson

(PDI–May 19 & 26, 2006)

TransCo

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

Section I.

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Supply and Delivery of Control Cables
(Reference No.: PB060322-EL0036)

1. The *National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO)* through the *CY2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TRANSCO Board*, intends to apply the sum of *Php 4,940,700.00* being the Total Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **Supply and Delivery of Control Cables**. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Control Cables*. Delivery of the GOODS is required *within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of approved Purchase Order*. The Description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine resposiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, starting **May 19, 2006 to June 21, 2006 from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.** at the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of *One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000.00)*. The method of payment will be CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **June 7, 2006 at 2:00 P.M.** at same address below. Requests for clarifications on the bid documents should be submitted before the Pre-Bid Conference.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **2:00 P.M. of June 22, 2006.** All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form and amount.

Form of Security		Amount
1.	Cash, certified check, cashier's check manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Php 49,407.00
2.	Bank guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Php 74,110.50
3.	Surety bond (2.5% of ABC)	Php 123,517.50
4.	Foreign government guarantee (100% of ABC)	Php 4,940,700.00

or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.

7. Bid opening shall be on **June 22, 2006 / 2:00 P.M.** at the *Admin Conference Rm. same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812235 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 19 & 26, 2006)

Chickenjoy
Jollibee BURGERS
Noodles
Desserts
Burger Steak

US MENU

There is no ...

From page B2-1

mantiong, brother of Jollibee head Tony Tan Caktiong.

Tanmantiong looked at all the foreign branches, particularly those in the US, and studied why they were not doing as well as expected.

What he realized was that the basics were not there: The menu was changed. The stores looked different from those in the Philippines, the crew were all US-based, and the target market was the Americans, not the Filipinos.

INEZ Reyes

Tanmantiong knew the basics were flawed.

He got Jollibee's VP for South Luzon, Tommy King, to look at the US outlets and see what he could do.

"We realized this (the US branches) was not Jollibee," relates Inez.

After studying the stores and the market, two major decisions were made, according to Inez.

"Let us not target the mainstream market and let us make the Filipinos happy. We decided to replicate the success of the business in the Philippines in the US," she says.

Filipino Jollibee managers who were constant achievers in the Philippines were sent to the US with options to bring their families. They were given stringent tests to determine who can best thrive in a multi-cultural environment.

The menu board in the Philippines was brought to the US. The Angus burger, *batchoy* and *guinataan* were scrapped.

How Chickenjoy, Jollibee's bestseller, is sold in the Philippines—with rice or bread, was adopted in the US. Jollibee is the only fast food which serves rice with chicken.

Traditionally, in Western environments, chicken is served with bread or potatoes. The bestsellers of two other Jollibee-owned fastfood chains—the *halo-halo* of Chowking and the Pearl Coolers of Greenwich—were also brought to the US.

These changes were put in place during the last half of 2005, and they immediately made an impact.

From a negative sales growth, revenues climbed. When sales were picking up, the new team asked the support of Jollibee's marketing group to support the changes. Last March, Inez brought Jollibee endorser Aga Muhlach on a US roadshow, visiting six of the 10 Jollibee branches.

"Aga accepted the invitation without asking about the fee. He shares our vision of helping make a Filipino brand succeed," beams Inez.

News of Aga's arrival spread through word of mouth, and it worked. Filipinos swarmed the branches where he went. And the combination of operational changes and marketing support resulted in triple digit sales for the Jollibee West Coast branches in less than a year.

A month after their roadshow, they offered Jolly Hotdog last April. Sales of the hotdogs amounted to 10 percent of the branches' sales.

"The way to compete in the US is to be who you are. That's how you attract the market," says Inez.

Export earner

But beyond the added revenues to Jollibee's coffers, the increase in sales in the US market has transformed Jollibee into an export earner.

Inez says Jollibee sends all its spices, breading, raw materials, and even the hotdogs to the US. They only buy the chicken and the beef in the West Coast.

Inez says Jollibee plans to reach export sales of $1 million (some P51 million) this year. So successful are the efforts that Jollibee has plans to open five to 10 more outlets in the US West Coast this year.

Jollibee has 25 stores outside the Philippines, with branches in Brunei, Vietnam, Saipan, Guam and Hong Kong.

Inez says, however, that the US market is unique in the sense that what is turning out as the success formula is the same as the one in the Philippines.

In other countries, there is pressure to adapt to the culture and local environment.

Another realization in the US market is that there is a growing number of Mexicans who eat in Jollibee, due to the similar tastes between the Filipinos and the Latinos.

With Jollibee's growing success, the food firm hopes other Filipino brands can penetrate markets like the United States.

Will price-cut …

From page B2-4

more target responses such as:

1. Promos for direct sales impact
2. Attracting new triers
3. Attracting brand switchers
4. Increasing category consumption
5. Maintaining, enhancing repeat purchase rates
6. Defending market share
7. Promos for retail trade impact
8. Gaining in-store promotional support
9. Increasing distribution
10. Motivating the sales force
11. More directly controlling price
12. Promos for integrating with advertising and other promotions
13. Reinforcing, enhancing print media advertising
14. Synergizing with other marketing instruments
15. Promos as strategic tool

There's something significantly different and more critical with Blattberg's categories. He says that practically any one specific promo activity can perform most if not all those 16 target responses. He in fact illustrates this with coupon. This particular illustration clearly underscored why it's more strategic to start the promo decision process with the target consumer responses and not with a predetermined or favorite promo tool.

So that's the practical utility of categorizing by the target consumer or customer response or responses. It suggests that the choice of the sales promo should start from there and not from the marketer's favorite promo or what's popular in the industry or what a leading competitor is doing.

Starting with the target consumer response gives a specific direction to the promo activity and defines its accountability. It also specifies how you are to evaluate the promo campaign's effectiveness. For example, if you are after goodwill building and had chosen sponsorship for this target customer response (as often happens in the pharma industry in promoting with doctors), then it's off-strategy and unfair to demand afterwards that the sponsorship be evaluated in terms of sales or market share gained.

There's another strategic concern of marketing practitioners about sales promotion. Over the years, the A&P budget split has gotten more and more percentage going to the "P" than to the "A." Many campaigns are now launched on a 20-80 A&P budget split, that is, 20 percent for advertising and 80 for consumer and trade promo. Way back, when it was the other way around, the call for accountability was understandably directed more toward advertising. But now, the accountability demand is more on promotion.

Advertising accountability was tackled through measuring the ad effectiveness via a pretest and post-test research system. That's now almost a developed science. However, no such system has been developed and tested for sales promotion. The sales promo studies we mentioned were all about post-tests. There's none addressing the need for pretesting, that is, knowing before launching if and how a chosen promo will work or not. For good reasons, many practitioners regard pretesting as strategically more important.

There's an intense and intensifying search for a good pretesting method to measure and predict sales promo effectiveness. Leading consumer brands who are heavy sales promo investors are deep into this search. The research difficulty to overcome has two dimensions. One is the sheer number of sales promo tools and its relatively short life cycle. The other dimension is our limited (and others say, our lack of) understanding of how exactly a sales promo works on the targeted consumer response (which we saw are just as many and varied).

There are a lot to consider on the issue you raise and no clear definite answer to your question is yet available. But you have several basic considerations to take and guide you in responsibly addressing your concerns about sales promotion and its impact on brand equity. We've summarized those above.

Keep your questions coming. Send to MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!

Cards to keep shoppers buying

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

A GROWING NUMBER OF RETAILERS in the Philippines have turned to offering their customers loyalty and discount cards to encourage their shoppers to keep on buying, preferably at their stores.

The retailers not only benefit from the cards by attracting new customers and keeping old ones loyal, they also get valuable customer insights based on the data mined from the cards—what and where they buy, how often and at what price.

That knowledge enables retailers to devise promotions or bring in the right merchandise.

These cards come in different forms and serve different purposes.

Below are companies that offer these cards to see how these apply to their operations and where they think the card program will go moving forward.

Ayala Malls

The Ayala Malls corner a good chunk of the money spent in malls by Filipinos in Makati, the financial center of the Philippines; and Cebu, tagged the Philippines' biggest city outside the capital, partly because of its Discount Plus Card and Ayala Malls Electronic Gift Certificate.

Rowena Tomeldan, head of the commercial centers group of Ayala Land Inc., the real estate development subsidiary of leading Philippine conglomerate Ayala Corp., says Ayala Malls discount card has gone a long way in helping it in its marketing activities.

Tomeldan explains that because the Ayala Discount Plus Card uses the chip technology, as opposed to a magnetic stripe, the commercial centers group can mine more data, which helps it pinpoint customers' preferences and shopping patterns and habits.

"This helps us in our store selection and marketing activities," Tomeldan adds.

The card holders, on the other hand, benefit because they can get an update of the points they earned from the program, and determine how soon they can convert the points into items or discounts on purchases.

The ability of chip cards to store and give information quickly and more efficiently is the main reason behind retailers' use of chip cards for loyalty programs.

Bennison Group

Like the Ayala Malls, the Bennison group of companies, which include Abenson, Walter-Mart shopping centers, Abea furniture shop and Avant appliance center, cites fostering loyalty as the main reason behind its investment in a discount program.

Abenson group vice president Winston Lim, however, says they still use cards with magnetic strips.

Lim explains that while many retailers are aware of the benefits of smart cards, or those with chips, there is still a lot to be done in terms of educating the consumers on their benefits, such as security and easier verification of data.

"I see cards with chips replacing magnetic cards being driven by the major credit card companies," he says. "The technology is there, now the challenge for smart cards is education as to why it is a better technology and the benefits they bring to the clients."

Lim says migration to chip cards will entail investments in education and front and back end infrastrucutre, which will take time to evolve.

He says one factor that may hasten the migration to smart cards is the standardization of systems and hardware.

Lim shares that the Philippines is one of the few countries that use proprietary technology for each card issuer on magnetic stripe credit cards.

"Because of this, we experience longer front transaction times since there are many different systems running in each store and longer backend processing times," he says.

"We hope we can push for more standardized transactions that make it easier across all industries when we evolve to smart cards," he adds.

In the meantime, the Abenson group is sticking to its magnetic stripe cards, that still enable it to provide points to its customers.

He agrees that cards are becoming increasingly popular because customers want to feel special, and they feel valued when they get some reward for making frequent purchases.

This prompted the Abenson group to offer loyalty cards.

"Our main intention is to create relationships with our customers. Our customers take the time and effort to visit and purchase from us, we value their patronize," he says.

"We would like to know who they are, what drives them, and creates more value for them in their current and future purchases," he adds.

Lim says that by strengthening its bond with its customers by giving points tracked by their cards, they are able to provide more value to their customers.

"Because of the additional value we create, they visit or patronize us more often. We can tailor fit our offering across our formats to suit particular market segments," he adds.

MasterCard

But while magnetic stripe cards still dominate the market, international card issuer MasterCard sees growing acceptance of smart cards among Filipino consumers because of security, convenience and value that they bring to consumers and retailers alike.

The Philippines recently joined global efforts to migrate to chip-based credit cards through the BPI Express Credit MasterCard, which was launched in May of last year.

This puts the country in the ranks of Malaysia, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, Singapore and Brunei, who are among the early adopters in Asia Pacific of the chip standards, particularly the EMV standard.

MasterCard said in a statement that the growth rate of smart cards in Asia has been very high, with the company recording more than 45 million MasterCard-branded smart cards in Asia Pacific last year, a 50 percent growth from the previous year.

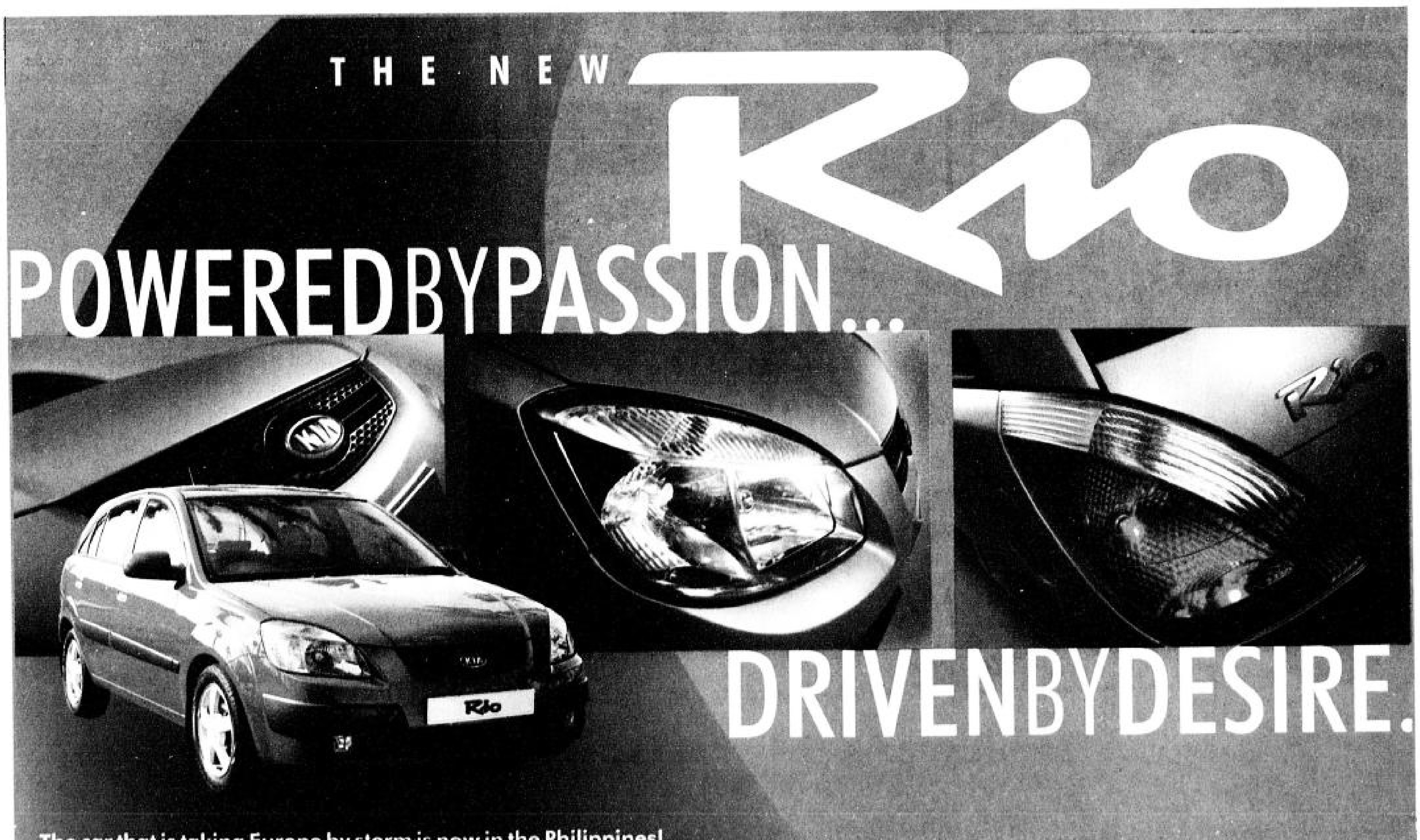
Most of these are true multi-application cards with both credit, debt financial and nonfinancial applications, such as rewards and loyalty programs, operating on the chip.

"The higher security and lower risk of fraud of smart cards are making them very popular with retailers and banks," MasterCard said.

"Consumers are beginning to appreciate the advantages of these all-in-one cards that offer them more choices while protecting their money. More and more member financial institutions and retailers are converting to smart cards systems," it added.

MasterCard said that smart cards are "intelligent" because they provide multi-applications, such as on-demand loyalty and rewards programs, secure online ID, personal ID management and others.

MasterCard said its smart cards open the possibility of wider offline use in traditionally cash-based, small-ticket, big-volume locations prevalent in the Philippines, such as fast food outlets, convenience or sari-sari stores, public and mass transport and other mini-payment situations like mobile phone airtime reloads.



The car that is taking Europe by storm is now in the Philippines!

A jury of influential motoring writers from 12 Eastern European countries has voted the New Kia Rio winner of the prestigious 'Autobest 2006' award for being 'the new car most suitable for the needs of the population…thoroughly modern with new technology and affordable to buy.'

"The New Kia Rio emerged as the winner, thanks to its fantastic value for money, great versatility, and the quiet artistry of its sleek design, both inside and out." The New Kia Rio draws admiring, envious looks with its taut, athletic body, complemented by the lush roominess of its passenger cabin and the ampleness of its amenities.

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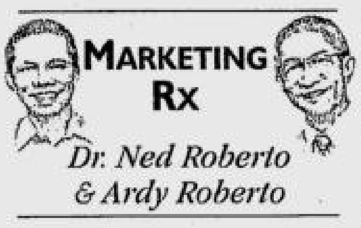
'Will price-cut promos damage our brand equity?' - Part II



MARKETING Rx

Dr. Ned Roberto
& Ardy Roberto

Q: IN CASES WHERE PRICE PROmos are likely to do damage to brand equity, why do companies still do them?

A: The answer here is simple. Companies aware of the risk to their brand equities still price promote because of competitive pressure and the tyranny of short-run sales target.

Sales promos do succeed in its brand switching and repeat purchase-triggering objectives as well as in its goal to push consumers to buy now and/or to buy more—in the short run. The internal company pressure to at least match the sales promoting competitor is typically overwhelming.

Del Monte example

It takes a company with an explicit policy favoring brand value enhancing advertising over the short-run sales fix of price promotion to effectively resist those pressures. Del Monte was one such company. It even went to the extreme that it's A&P (advertising and promotion) budget would be exclusively devoted to brand building advertising and if it had to have promotions, then these would be either goodwill-building promotion like sponsorships or loyalty inducing promos like frequent buyer programs but no price promo at all. This brand enhancing A&P policy paid off when Del Monte introduced Del Monte spaghetti. The brand attained profitable market share in its first year. It's a rare first year market participation accomplishment. Consumer research revealed that consumer purchases for the new brand were made primarily on the basis of the consumer franchise (that is, brand equity value) of the Del Monte brand.

Sales promotion activities are growing in number and variety. Managing this Malthusian population and population growth is basically a matter of categorizing. Traditional marketing practice classifies by the marketing mix elements on which the promo is based. Thus, we talked about price-based promotion, product-based promotion, or place-based promotion like off-shelf displays and car shows or expos. Categorizing this way is essentially solving a marketing problem from where the marketer is. It does not abide by the "marketing concept" of starting from where the consumers are.

So the better way to categorize is to think of the target consumer or customer responses that we're asking a promo tool to influence. Donald Lehmann of the University of Columbia, proposed classifications like:

Long-run relationship building target consumer responses: Image enhancing promos, e.g., sponsorships; awareness enhancing promos, e.g., sweepstakes and contests

Short-run transactional target consumer responses: Promos to get current customers to buy more, e.g., volume discount or "value" packages

Promos to get current customers to be more loyal, e.g., frequent buyer programs and premiums

Promos to get noncustomers to try, e.g., trial pack size, sampling

The acknowledged guru of sales promotion, Robert Blattberg of the Kellogg School of Northwestern University, proposed a similar categorization but had

WILL/ B2-3

There are 3 things to consider when investing in real estate: access, access and access.

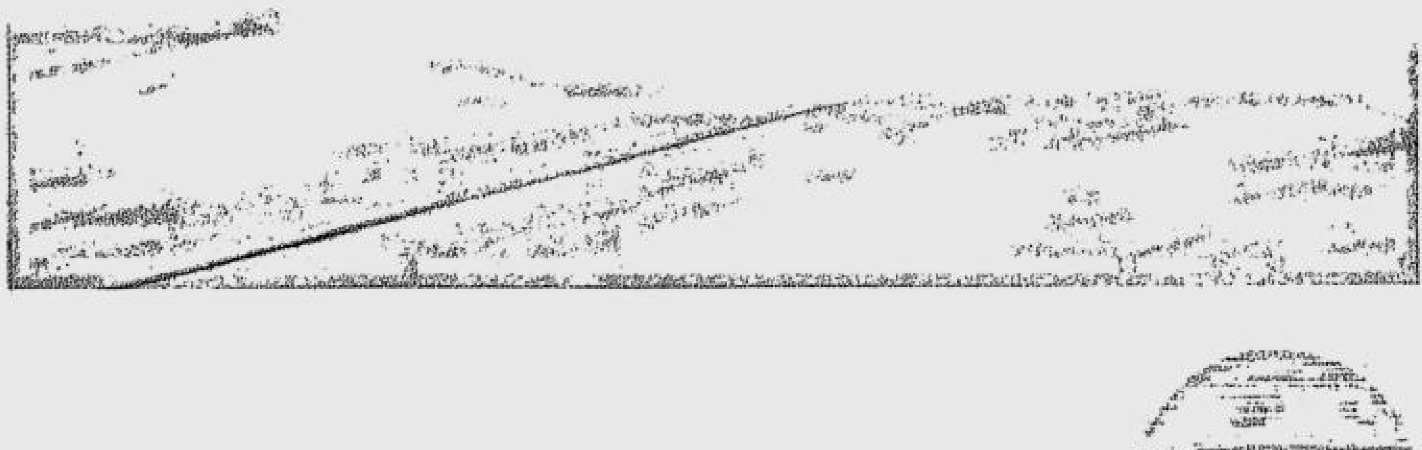
Until traffic in the larger metropolitan area becomes a thing of the past, access will be just as important as location when considering a real estate investment.

Bonifacio Global City has no less than seven entry points from every direction: from the North, Kalayaan Avenue; from the West, two access points from EDSA – Kalayaan Flyover and McKinley Road; from the East, three access points from C5 Highway; and from the south, Lawton Avenue from the Airport.

Mobility within the new Global City is likewise ensured via an efficient road network, a traffic management scheme and more-than-ample parking provisions.

In the future, a managed bus system will provide direct links to Metro Manila's Light Rail Transit system and the Makati CBD.

For people and companies in the fast lane, this is a place that keeps the pace.



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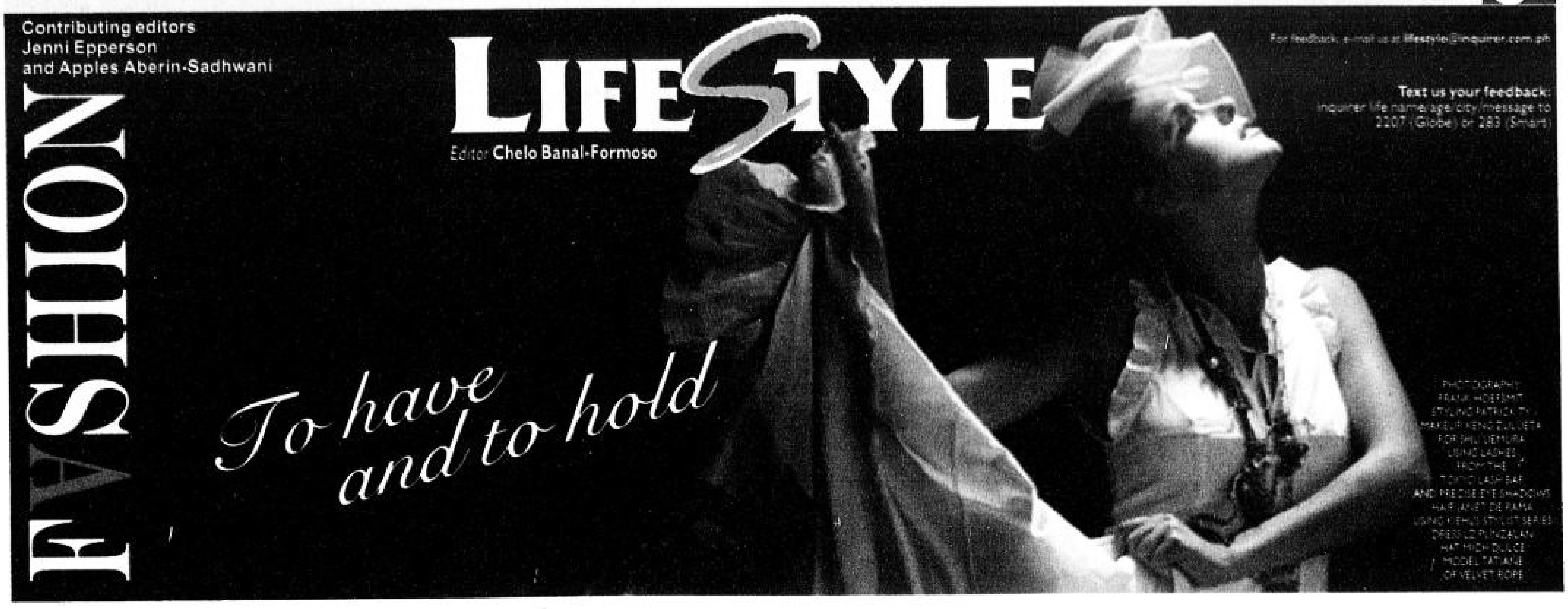


To have and to hold

PHOTOGRAPHY
FRANK HOEFSMIT
STYLING PATRICK TY
MAKEUP KENG ZULUETA
FOR SHU UEMURA
USING LASHES
FROM THE
TOKYO LASH BAR
AND PRECISE EYE SHADOWS
HAIR JANET DE RAMA
USING [illegible] STYLIST SERIES
DRESS LIZ PUNZALAN
HAT MICH DULCE
MODEL TATIANE
OF VELVET ROPE

Groomed for the altar

Men about to take the plunge should never take themselves for granted. After all, it's their big day, too

By Alex Y. Vergara

WHILE IT USUALLY TAKES a fashion designer like Frederick Peralta six to eight months to create an ideal wedding gown, it takes him only two to three months to make a formal suit or barong. If worse comes to worst, he can piece together a decent suit within three to four days.

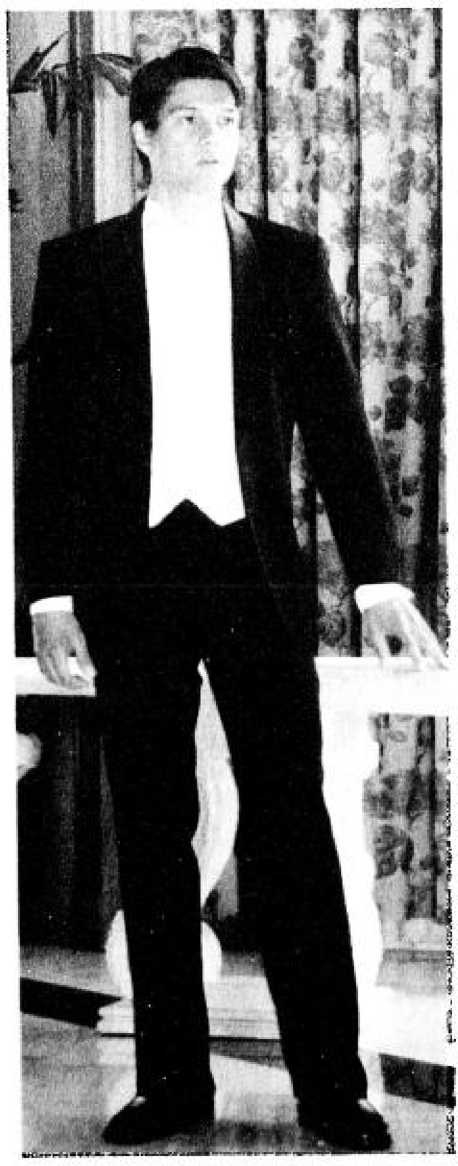
Despite the hefty surcharge he bills clients for rush orders, however, Peralta discourages would-be grooms to visit him at the eleventh hour. Men, he says, should never take themselves for granted. After all, it's their big day, too *(see boxed item for tips)*.

"Since most guys are busy preparing for their weddings," he says, "they tend to forget themselves. They shouldn't. They should psyche themselves up and synchronize their wedding preparations with the bride."

Why the ample lead time? Peralta needs it to order materials, schedule them for production and pick a specific day for fitting. The final price tag will depend on such factors as design, type of materials and the groom's size.

His suits and barongs start at P15,000, while a pair of pants costs anywhere from P4,000-P5,000. You can probably save a considerable amount of money by buying a suit or barong off the rack, but don't be surprised if you bump into a guest (or worse the head waiter) wearing the same stuff.

GROOMED/ C2

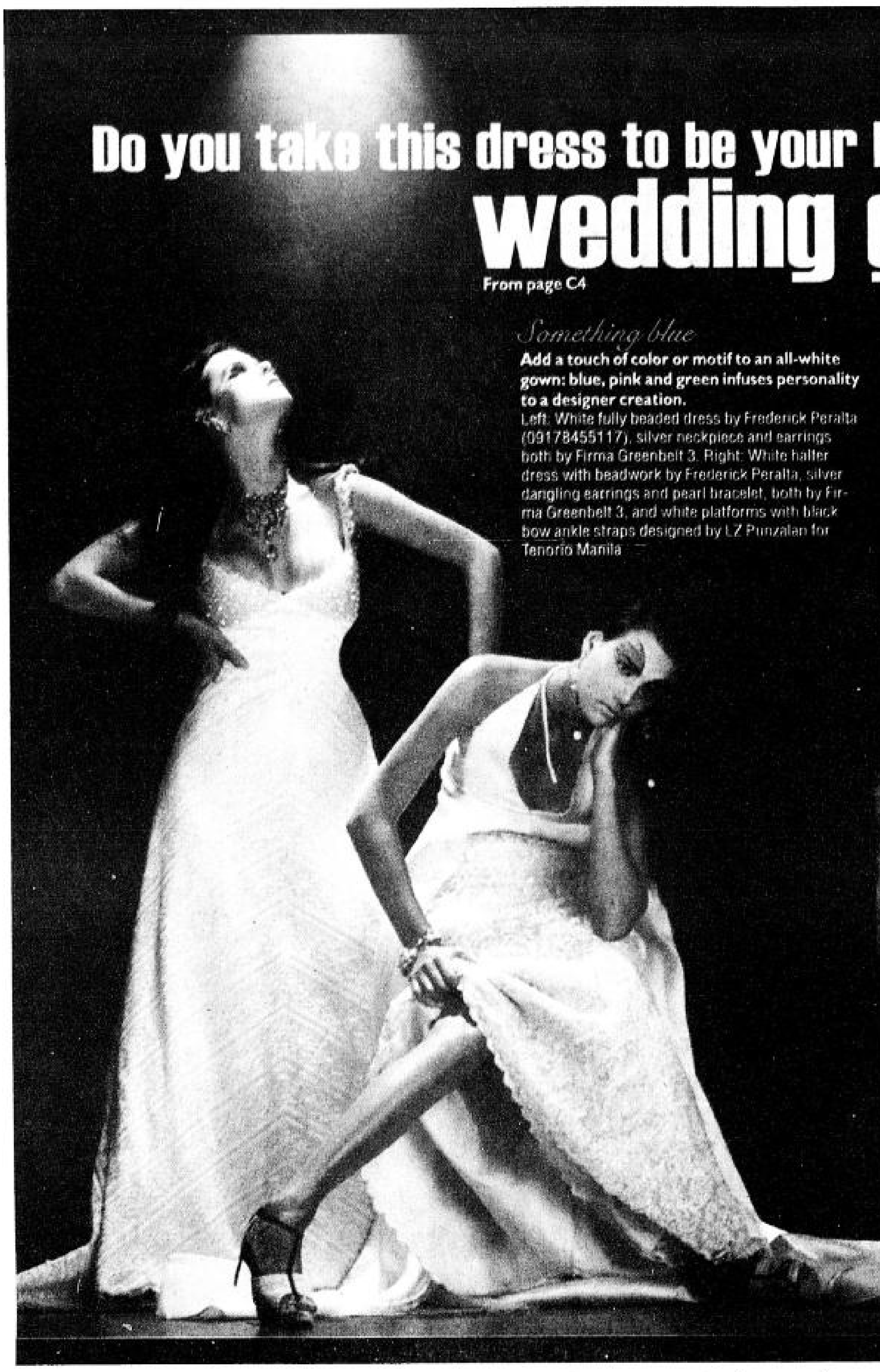


WELL SUITED. On Raphael: Cashmere gabardine black tuxedo with classic shawl lapel jacket and white duchess satin vest

A|X ARMANI EXCHANGE
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA | GLORIETTA IV | ALABANG TOWN CENTER | POWERPLANT MALL

Do you take this dress to be your lawful wedding gown?

From page C4



Something blue

Add a touch of color or motif to an all-white gown: blue, pink and green infuses personality to a designer creation.

Left: White fully beaded dress by Frederick Peralta (09178455117), silver neckpiece and earrings both by Firma Greenbelt 3. Right: White halter dress with beadwork by Frederick Peralta, silver dangling earrings and pearl bracelet, both by Firma Greenbelt 3, and white platforms with black bow ankle straps designed by LZ Punzalan for Tenorio Manila

Something borrowed

Put a spin to your *lola's* or mom's wedding gown and add modern-day pleats.

White dress with gathered electric-pleated hem and *sampaguita*-inspired pearl necklaces, both by LZ Punzalan, gold brocade platforms with cobalt blue heels designed by LZ Punzalan for Tenorio Manila, and white hat by Mich Dulce

Groomed for the altar

From page C1

"It's not that I discourage men from going RTW," he says, "but you shouldn't expect a great deal of original and flattering details from such pieces."

And unless you're gifted with a model's body, off-the-rack suits usually entail a great deal of repair work to be able to fit you like second skin. Why go through all the trouble when you can have a suit or barong made especially for you?

Made-to-order clothes not only cater to your measurements and specifications, they're also crafted with your personality in mind. What's more, they're intended to cover your imperfections (a big tummy and short legs are just two of the average Filipino's most common flaws) and highlight your assets.

"By going MTO, you're in a position to ask the designer to make clothes that you'll feel comfortable in," says Peralta. "You can ask him, for example, to make them either looser or tapered."

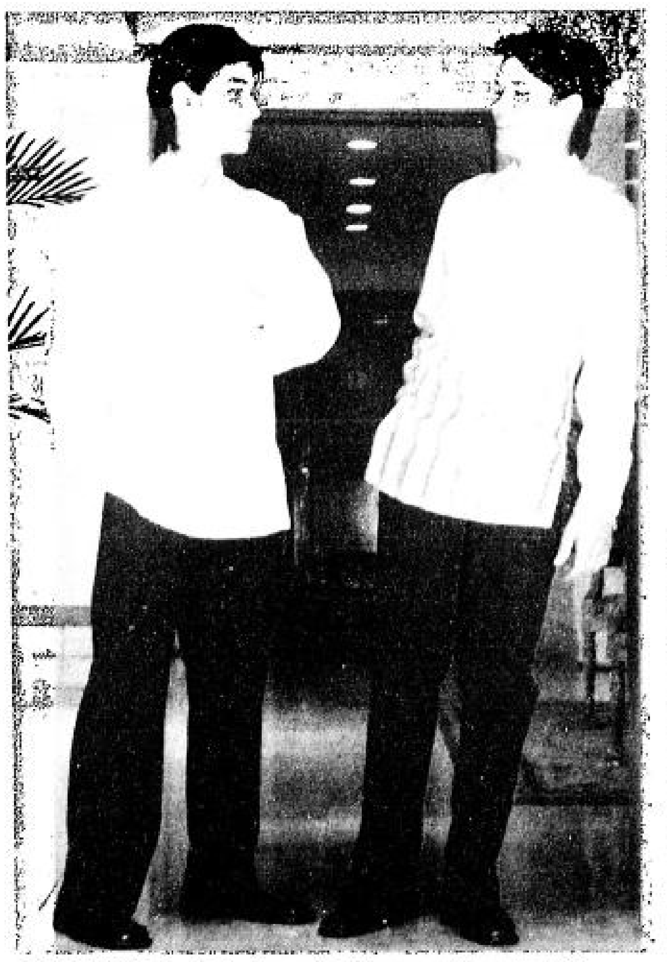
Of course, three-piece suits are best reserved for indoor weddings (preferably in Baguio or Tagaytay) and those scheduled during cool months. Looser tops made of cotton voile, banana cloth or the trusty *piña* are acceptable alternatives to the formal barong if you're to exchange "I dos" on the beach.

A bow tie is your best bet if you plan to wear a traditional tux. Should you opt for a necktie, Peralta warns you to stay away from the office-y striped and the attention-grabbing floral-printed variety. Go instead for a textured necktie in a similar tone as your suit.

If you've decided to seal your fate in a barong, then do so by all means. Just don't make the mistake of wearing the black, triangular neckpiece studded with a single pearl like so many grooms in the provinces still do.

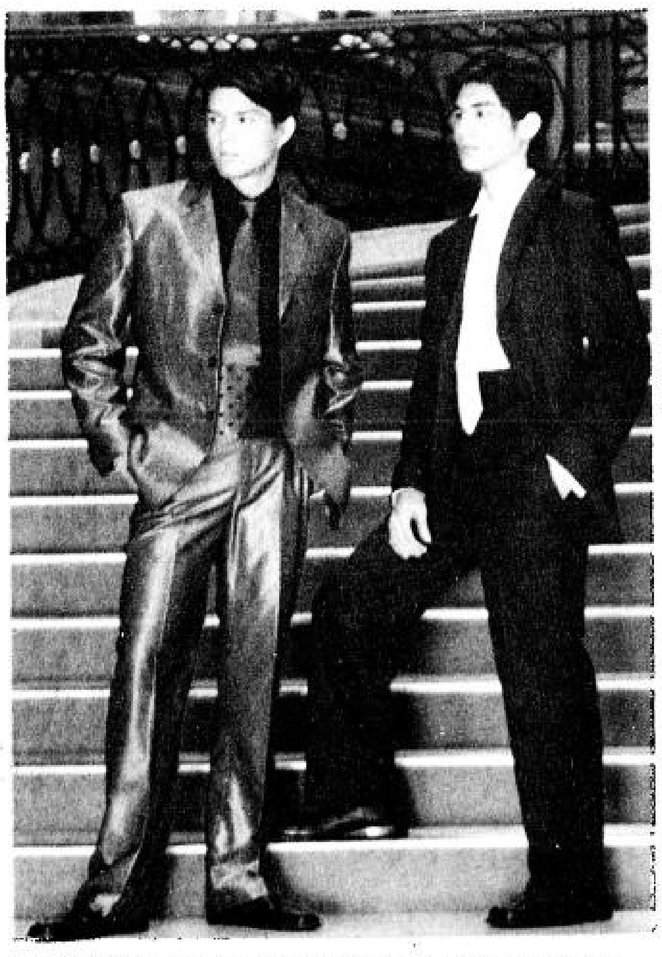
"If you ask me," he says, "wearing such an accessory is the height of *kabaduyan*. Unless you want to look like a choirboy on your wedding day, the barong is best worn without any frills."

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



ALTAR BOYS. On AJ: Indian sari silk barong with geometric weaves and Nehru collar, and black gabardine wool pants. On Raphael: Striped Indian sari silk barong with muted and gold stripes

GROOMED. Classic *piña* barong embellished with hand-embroidered silver thread, and black gabardine wool pants



BEST MEN. On Raphael: Taffeta silk gray suit with polka-dotted taffeta silk cummerbund, black cotton shirt and gray tie. On AJ: Pinstriped cashmere wool suit, white cotton shirt and pearlized satin silk tie

Suits that groom

WILL IT BE PANTS AND BARONG or a three-piece suit on the big day? Whatever you decide on, it pays to follow these common but often neglected tips from Frederick Peralta as you and your future wife attend to a million-and-one concerns.

After all, you owe it to yourself and your guests to look your best. And should your photos outlast your marriage (God forbid!), you could take consolation in the fact that you once tried to look the part.

Barong number

- With or without a pearl, ditch the black neckpiece.
- Cease and desist from wearing a *sando* (tank top).
- Wear a snug *camisa chino* under your barong instead.
- Avoid a colored or stark white *camisa chino*, as it will stand out from under an ecru-colored barong.
- An untucked *camisa chino*, or a tucked-in barong, is a big no-no.

Don't tax the tux

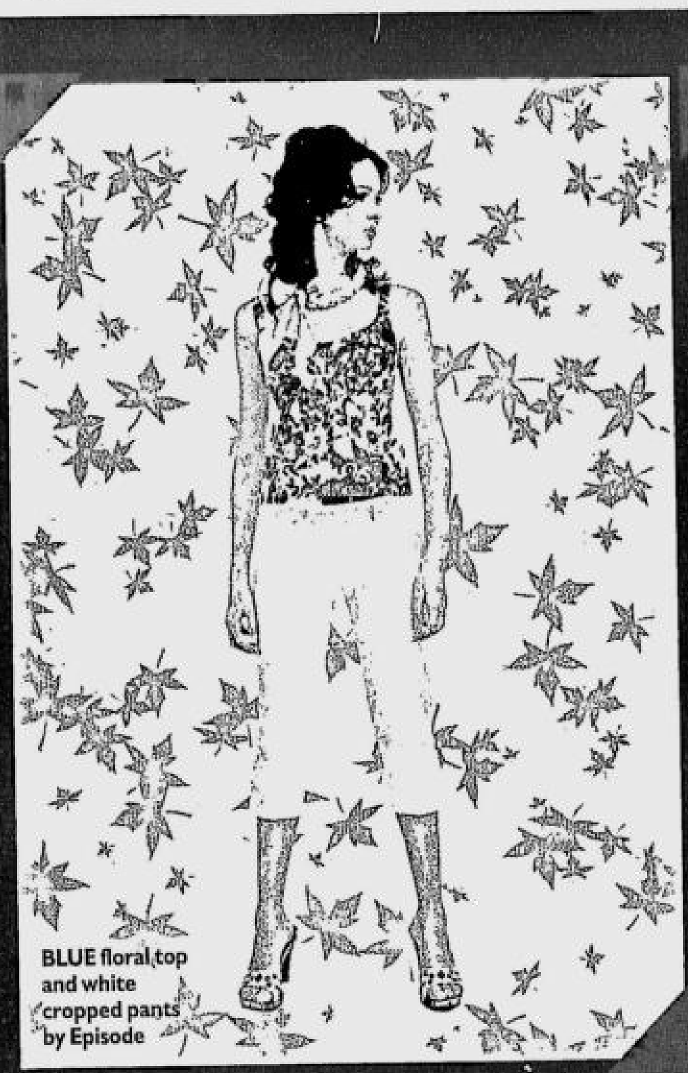
- Wear a tapered tuxedo shirt underneath the jacket to allow it to move.
- Save the coattails and white shoes for theme weddings.
- Pay close attention to the suit's construction.
- Bring your wedding shoes during the fitting.
- Learn to distinguish between formal and office shoes.

Look the part

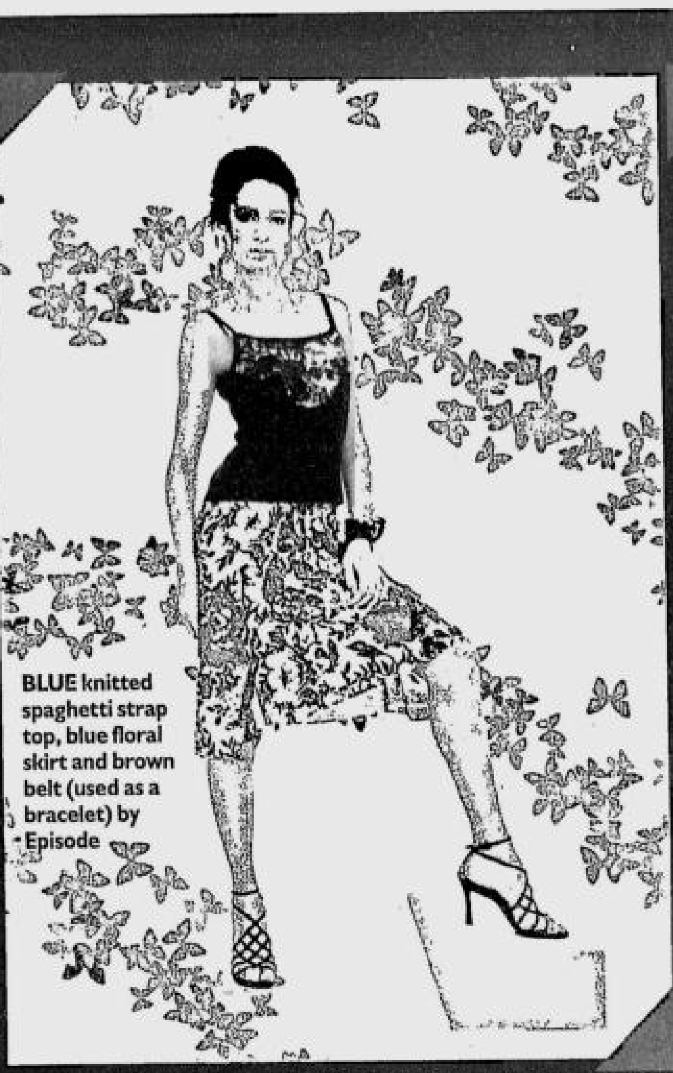
- Get a haircut at least a week (not a day) before the wedding.
- Stress can ruin your skin, so take extra care of it.
- No matter how busy you are, don't forget to visit the gym regularly.

Alex Y. Vergara

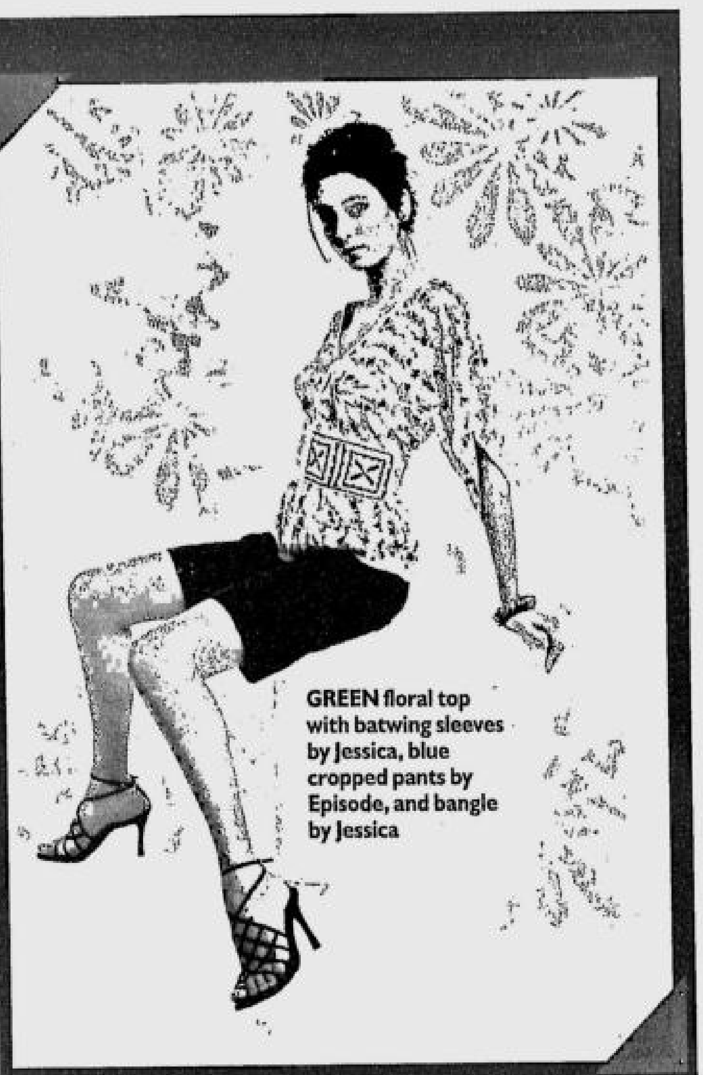
PHOTOGRAPHY
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN
GROOMING KOALA
(09178164299)
CLOTHES FREDERICK PERALTA
(09178455117)
MODELS RAPHAEL KIEFER
AND AJ WINKLER (MERCATOR)
SHOT ON LOCATION AT
EDSA SHANGRI-LA HOTEL
SPECIAL THANKS TO NEIL RUMBAOA



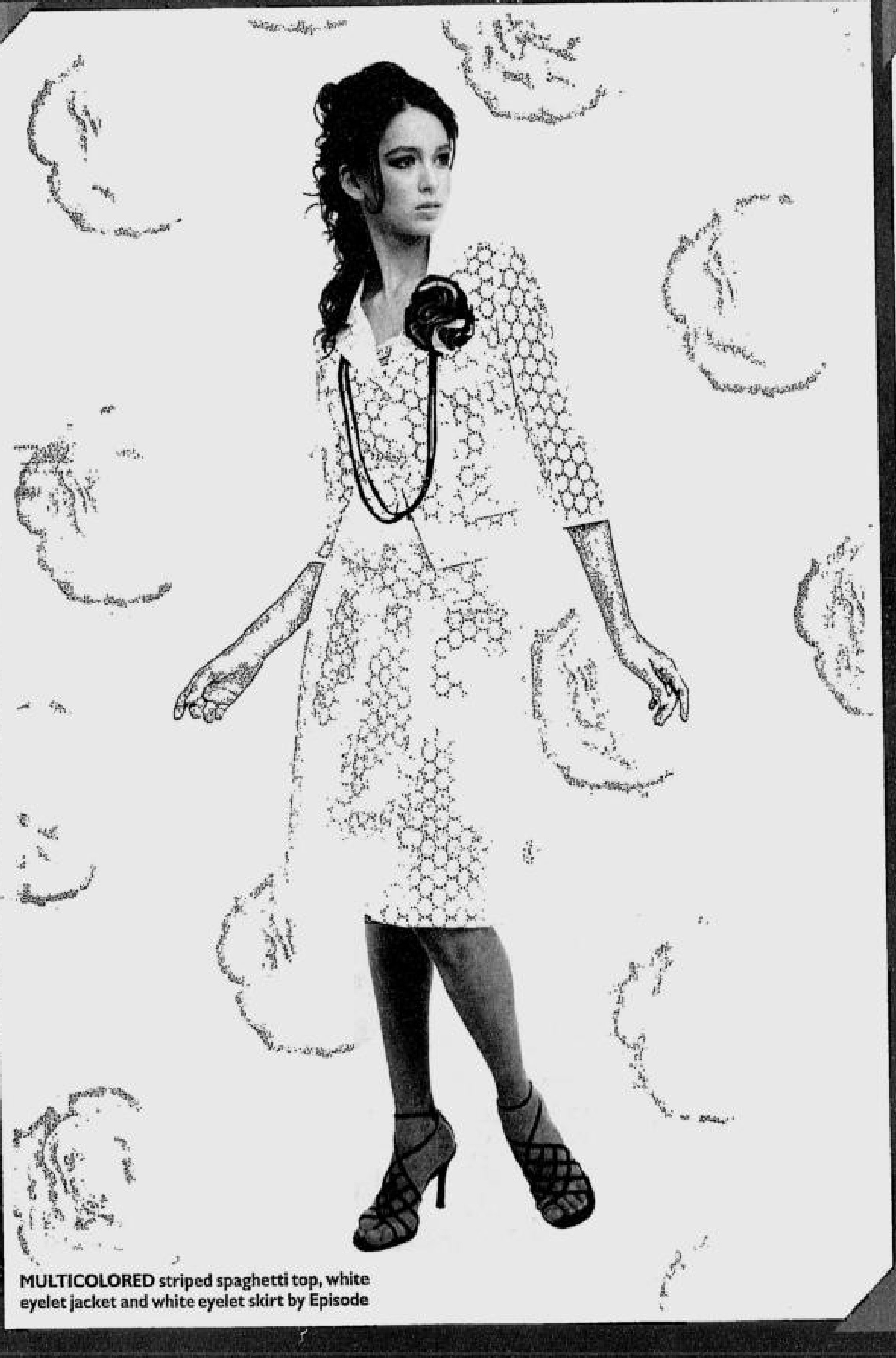
BLUE floral top and white cropped pants by Episode



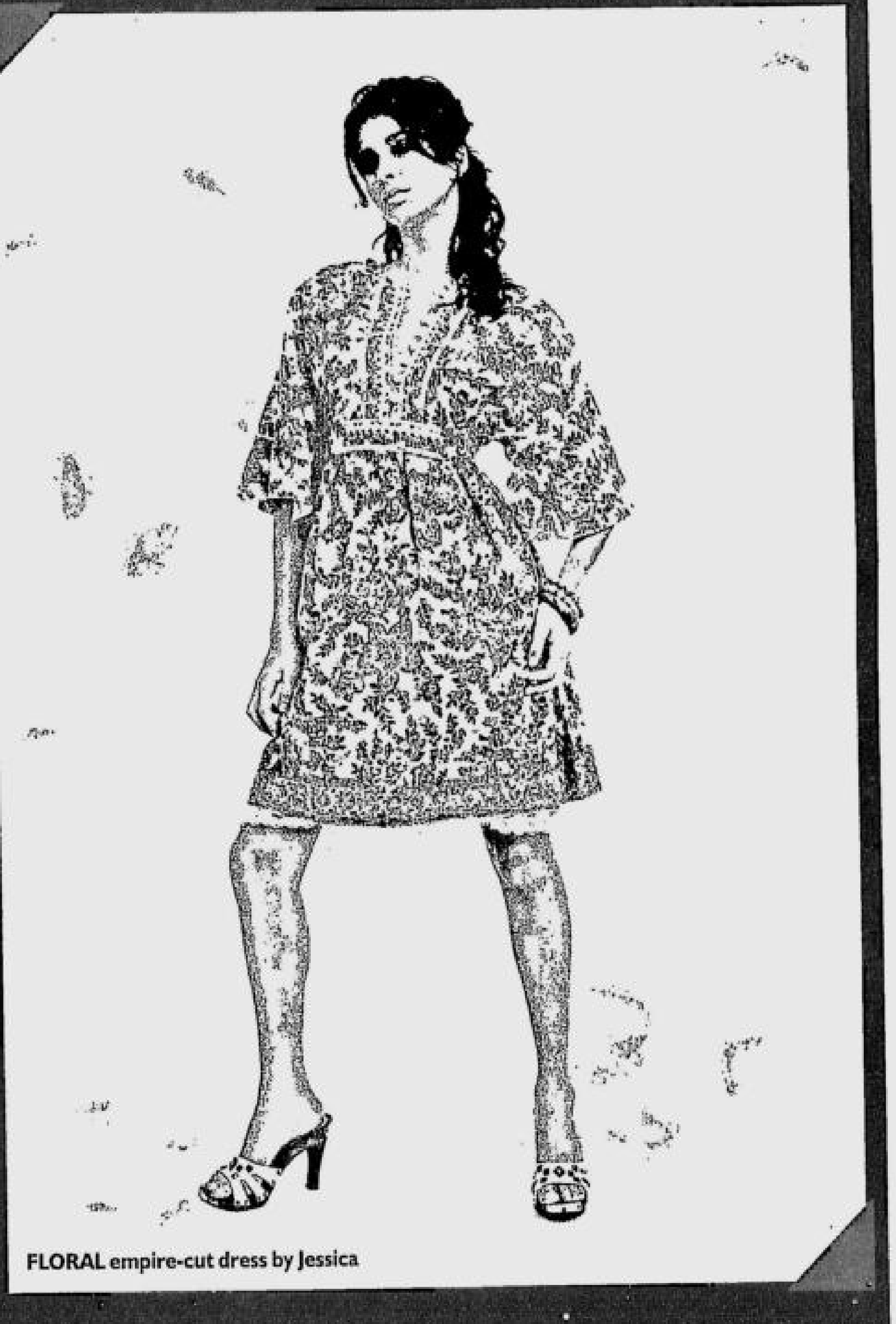
BLUE knitted spaghetti strap top, blue floral skirt and brown belt (used as a bracelet) by Episode



GREEN floral top with batwing sleeves by Jessica, blue cropped pants by Episode, and bangle by Jessica



MULTICOLORED striped spaghetti top, white eyelet jacket and white eyelet skirt by Episode



FLORAL empire-cut dress by Jessica

Flower girls

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JASON TABLANTE
STYLING JANE KINGSU
MAKEUP ROBBIE PIÑERA
MODEL MARIA EDUARDA SEILER/
IDEAL PEOPLE MODEL MANAGEMENT
CLOTHES EPISODE AND JESSICA

Celebrate romance and youth with a frenzy of colorful blooms

APPLES' PICKINGS

Apples Aberin-Sadhwani

FLOWERS, JUST LIKE A glance or a touch, can express a thousand words and a myriad of emotions. Red roses symbolize love while calla lilies represent beauty. Tulips convey passion while daisies signify innocence. A frenzy of vibrant blooms, on the other hand, can express a burst of joy and exuberance.

In fashion, floral-printed frocks and clothing generally denote youth and romance. It's something that's usually associated with girly girls who are not afraid to show their softer side. And although it's not for everyone, as proven by a predominantly solid/neutral/monochromatic-colored clad Manila, women should, at the very least, give this rosy picture a try to celebrate their femininity.

Hesitant flower girls can start small by adding little flowery touches to their wardrobe. A top with a floral-printed collar or cuffs would be the perfect baby step. Matching these with office-worthy men's trousers or sleek city shorts can tone down lady-like appeal, if so desired. Subtle prints that don't pop out are also excellent options for those who are not ready to don wild, multihued patterns.

It's also a good idea to match floral items with solid pieces so the look is not too busy or overwhelming. A pretty top with colorful blooms, for instance, will look fresh with white capris or stove-pipe pants, while a basic tank will modernize an ultra-feminine chintz-y skirt.

Those who are adventurous enough should go ahead and wear colorful floral-printed frocks. Shifts, baby-doll or long, flowing dresses with various floral motifs abound in the local market. It's just a matter of choosing the right print to suit one's personality and style.

Nowadays, floral-printed outfits are not just reserved for weekends or mini-breaks in some resort. These patterns can now be worn anywhere, anytime. An understated eyelet skirt-suit is perfect for a morning or day wedding, for example. A flowing empire-cut dress is ideal for beach weddings or a lunch date with the girls, while a batwing-sleeved top matched with neutral city shorts is just right for the office (dress code permitting, of course).

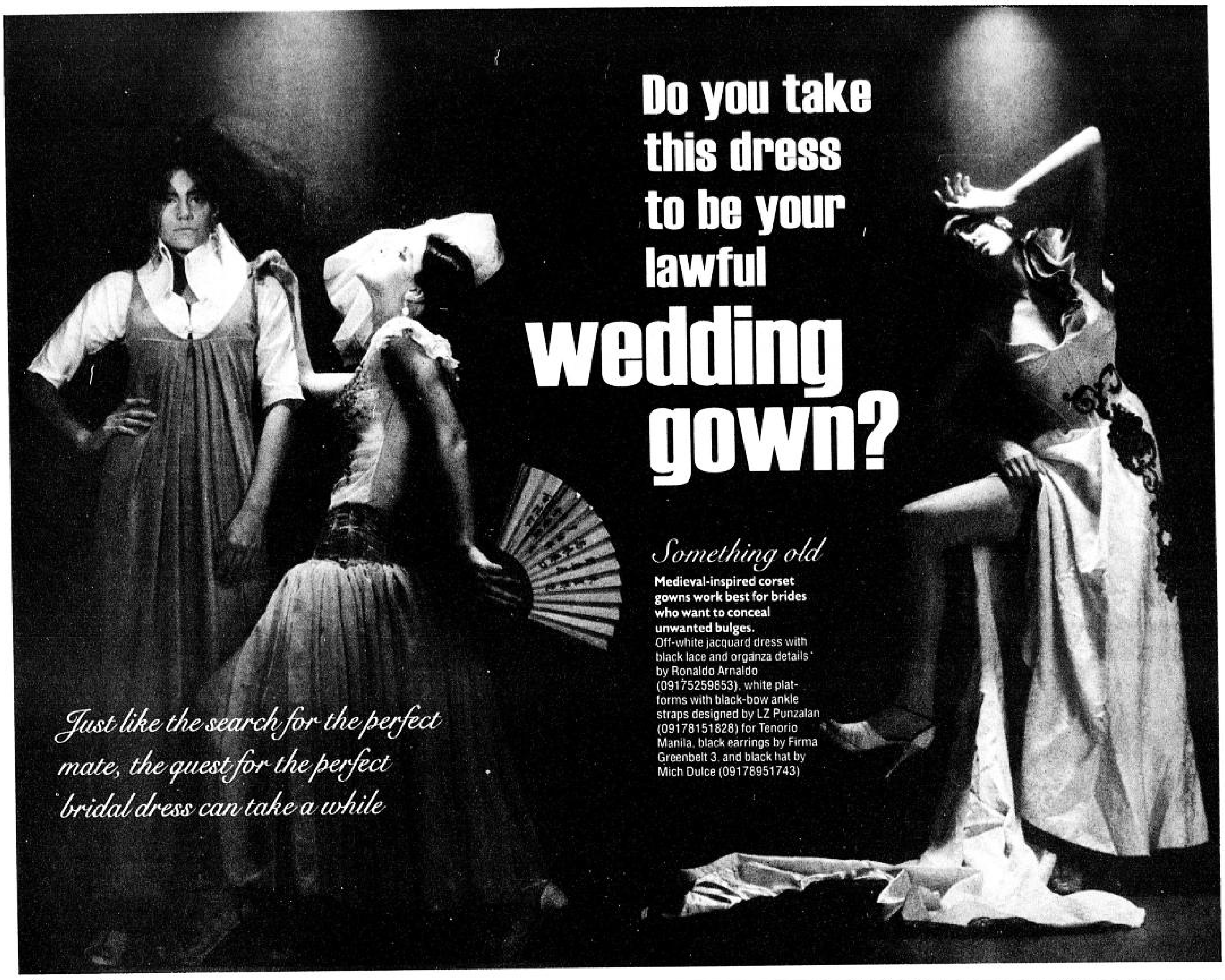
Celebrate romance and youth with a frenzy of colorful blooms. The possibilities are endless, exciting and a potential feast to the eyes. All it takes is a bit of imagination and a much-needed peek through rose-colored lenses.

Check out Episode's Botanical Rhapsody collection and Jessica's Havana line for a floral fix!

E-mail the author at afashion@inquirer.com.ph

Do you take this dress to be your lawful wedding gown?

Just like the search for the perfect mate, the quest for the perfect bridal dress can take a while



Something old

Medieval-inspired corset gowns work best for brides who want to conceal unwanted bulges.
Off-white jacquard dress with black lace and organza details by Ronaldo Arnaldo (09175259853), white platforms with black-bow ankle straps designed by LZ Punzalan (09178151828) for Tenorio Manila, black earrings by Firma Greenbelt 3, and black hat by Mich Dulce (09178951743)

Something new

Dare to be different with this modern silhouette for the contemporary bride.
Left: White top with dramatic collar, green knitted dress with random pleats, and black tulle veil, all by Joey Samson (0918-9592541), silver earrings by Firma Greenbelt 3, and white platforms with black bow ankle straps designed by LZ Punzalan for Tenorio Manila
Right: Nude top with lace and scattered beadwork and green chiffon skirt with brown leather waistband, both by Yvonne Quisumbing-Romulo (0920-9206370), white hat by Mich Dulce, gold brocade platforms with cobalt blue heels designed by LZ Punzalan for Tenorio Manila, silver earrings and Japanese paper fan, both by Firma Greenbelt 3

IN MEDIEVAL EUROPE, WEDDINGS WERE serious business—literally. It was not just a union of two people but, sometimes, a union between two families, two businesses and, in the case of royalty, a union between two countries. The brides wore finery of glitter and gold, for she did not just represent herself. She represented her dynasty.

Mabuhay!

Jenni Epperson

The wedding gown has undergone quite an evolution: from layers of rich, colorful cloth such as silk, velvet and brocade to the long chantilly-lace white gowns of our mothers to the sexy beach wedding gowns of today.

Strangely enough, the white wedding gown is a fairly recent phenomenon, a trend that began with the nuptials of Queen Victoria and Albert of Saxe-Coburg in 1840. Afterward, Lady's Book, a women's magazine in the 1800s, began promoting "white is right" for its connotations of purity. Post-World War II, Princess Grace Kelly popularized the white cupcake gown, which was later followed by Coco Chanel's daring mini version of the wedding gown.

Nowadays, the choices of wedding gowns outnumber the choices for a groom! There are designers who strictly specialize in wedding gowns, while specialty stores such as Ready to Wed, Trends Wedding Shoppe and North Road have become one-stop shops for all your wedding needs.

I've attended weddings that ranged from the traditional to the kooky (including a rock 'n roll wedding with the couple clad in leather, chains and animal prints) to the sexy (bikini-clad bride with veil).

Mega magazine's style magician Patrick Ty did a smashing job for this fashion spread. The Gothic Glam feel is a mix of "Frankenstein's Bride" and Julia Roberts' "Runaway Bride."

"I know that brides will not go for very Goth looks and edgy makeup," Patrick said. "But that's what fashion shoots are all about—indulging in a sense of fantasy."

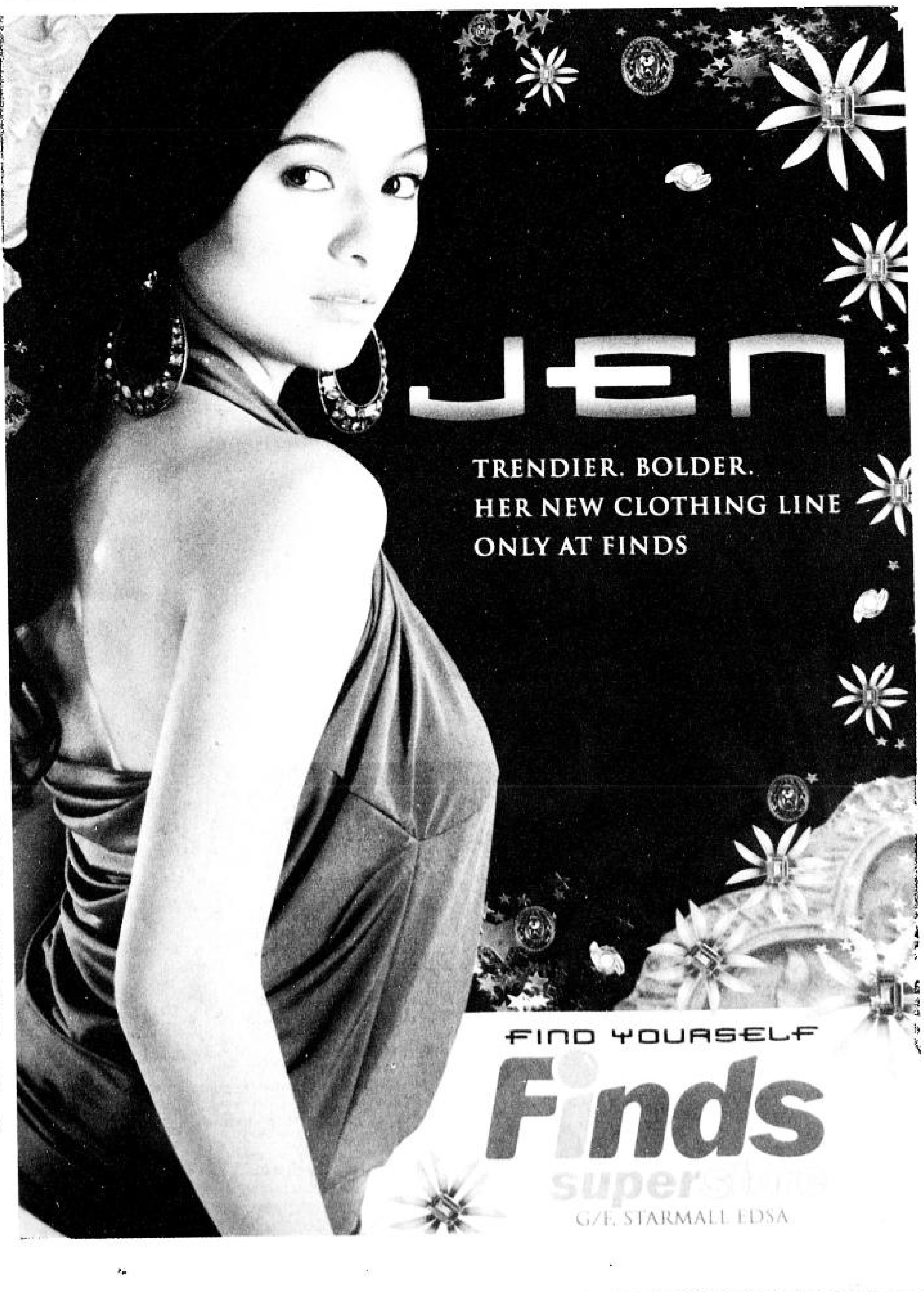
"My styling was inspired by ecclesiastical scenes with a strong ray of light cutting through the darkness. The subliminal message in terms of fashion is that eclectic bridal wear is now stepping out of the shadows of conventionally styled gowns and has taken the mainstream spotlight."

With society becoming less uppity about bridal traditions, and many designers becoming more experimental and edgy with their creations, perhaps an additional question should be asked of the bride: "Do you take this couturier to be your lawfully designated designer?"

E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

More photos page C2

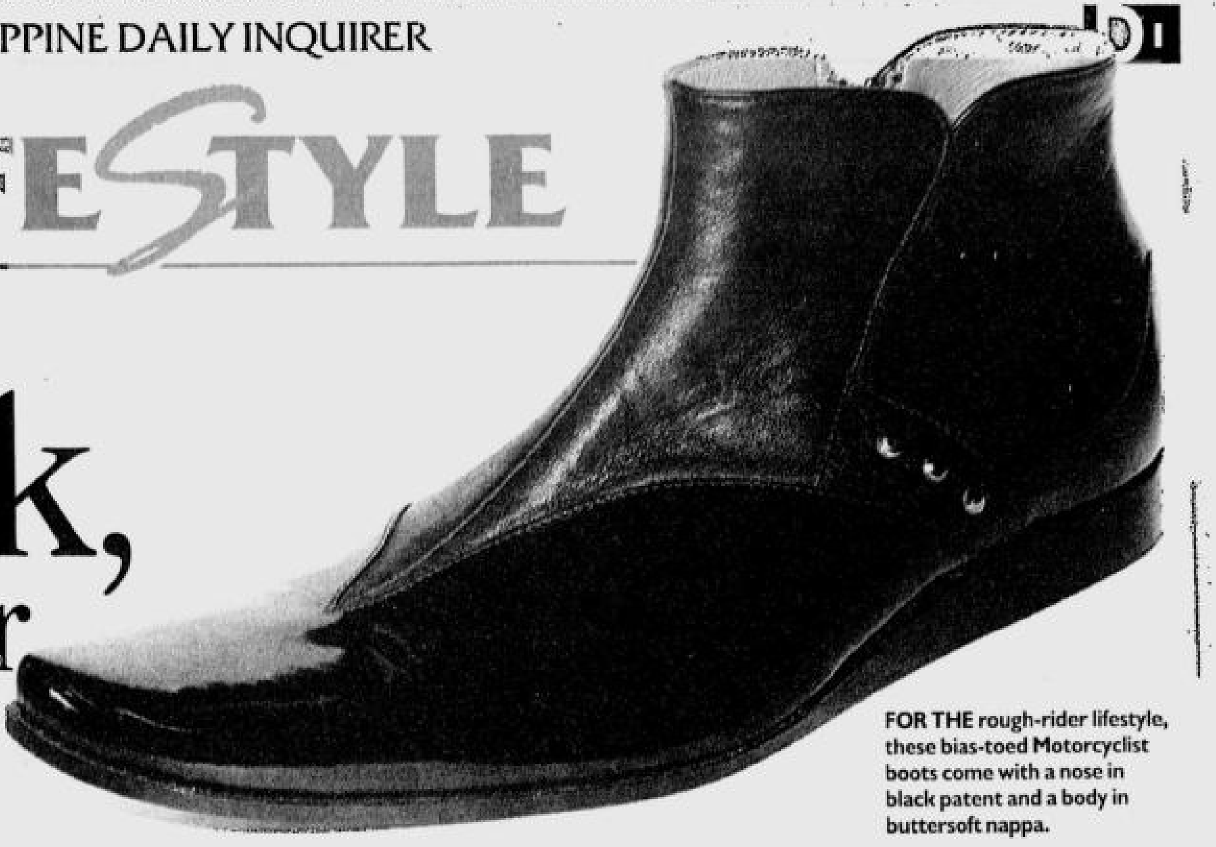
PHOTOGRAPHY FRANK HOEFSMIT
STYLING PATRICK TY
MAKEUP XENG ZULUETA FOR SHU UEMURA USING LASHES FROM THE TOKYO LASH BAR AND PRECISE EYE SHADOWS
HAIR JANET DE RAMA USING KIEHL'S STYLIST SERIES
MODELS AMANDA AND TATIANE OF VELVET ROPE



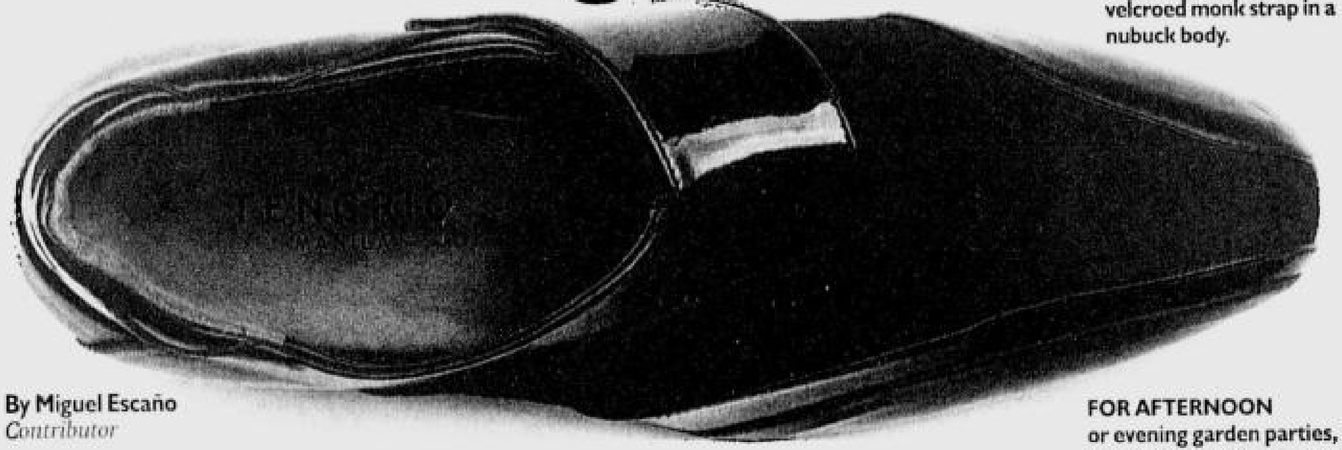
DESIGNER Brian Tenorio photographed by Alfred Men

Dark, dapper and dangerous

Brian Tenorio's Noir Males shoe collection celebrates men's shadowy allure



FOR THE rough-rider lifestyle, these bias-toed Motorcyclist boots come with a nose in black patent and a body in buttersoft nappa.



FOR THE MAN on the go, the fashionable, versatile and practical Airport Shoe is a round-tipped slip-on with reverse velcroed monk strap in a nubuck body.

By Miguel Escaño
Contributor

WHAT IS IT about the night that transforms men into creatures of passion? Why does darkness evoke romance and excitement in the hearts of women?

In his latest collection, shoe designer Brian Tenorio celebrates the darkness in men. "The noir genre is all about romanticizing the darkness," he says. Tehran-born, Filipino-American Tenorio fuels the high-end brand's creative spirit as principal designer.

Aptly entitled Noir, Tenorio's latest collection explores the edgy and the irreverent. "The Noir collection is a stylish exhibition of our fears, wants and megalomania for beautiful things," says the designer. "From painfully minimalist to arrogantly extravagant, this collection reaches into our deepest and darkest desires to be more than what is possible and to be more than what we can do."

With a Noir pair, all you have to do is come as yourself. Let your stylish shoes do the talking (and romancing).

No design is taboo, no material is too exotic for Tenorio's creative savvy. Sizes range from two to 16 (and even larger). His shoes arrive dressed in exotic tilapia fish skin, gold foil detailing, crocodile skin, even with perforated dragons.

Although the label is young, Tenorio Manila harbors grand ambitions for itself and Philippine-made shoes in general.

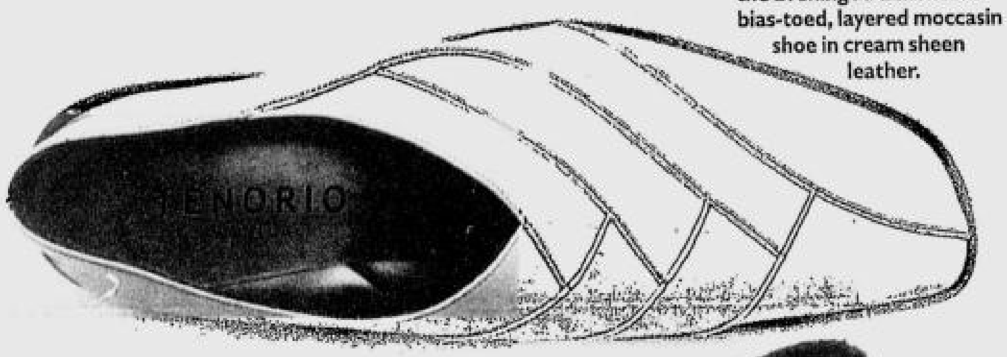
"The Noir collection contributes to Tenorio Manila's agenda for national change, both in design and in sensibility," says Tenorio. "We celebrate a people fumbling in the darkness to become a nation lighting its first candle.

Pioneer brand

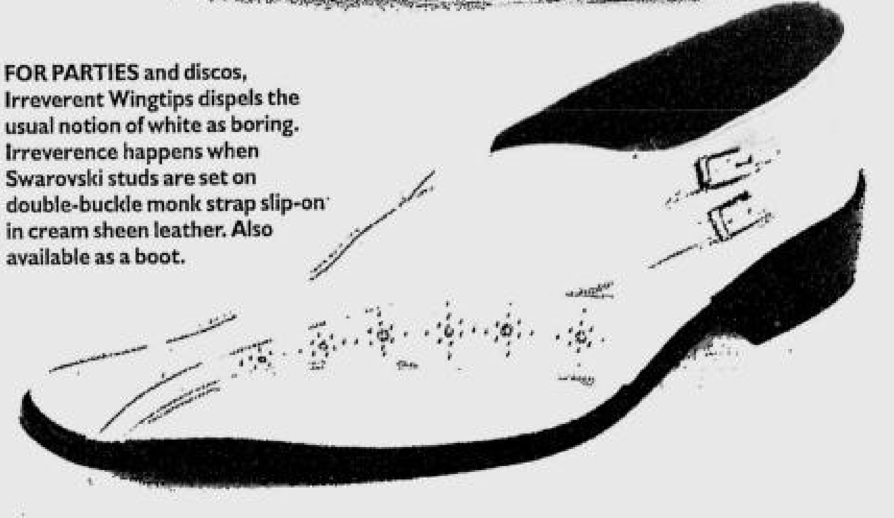
The Philippines' youngest design company, Tenorio Manila is also the country's foremost designer shoe label for retail and the only made-to-order custom-fit designer label for men and women's shoes.

After only a year of operations, Tenorio Manila became the youngest exhibiting company in last year's GDS Messe Dusseldorf Shoe Fair in Germany. It was a finalist in the 2005 Harvard Business School Entrepreneurial Idol-Battle of the Business Plans, a competition held in Boston in the United States.

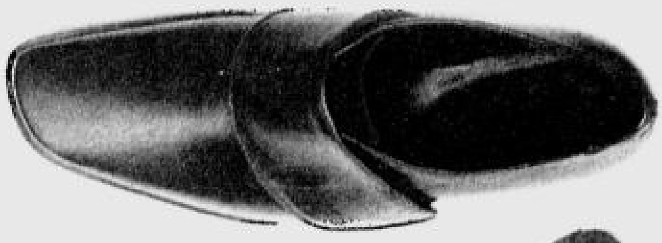
Tenorio Manila's Noir Males Collection preview is at www.tenoriomanila.com. Call +632-9331097 or +632-9331098 or +63917-6280926, or e-mail shoes@tenoriomanila.com.



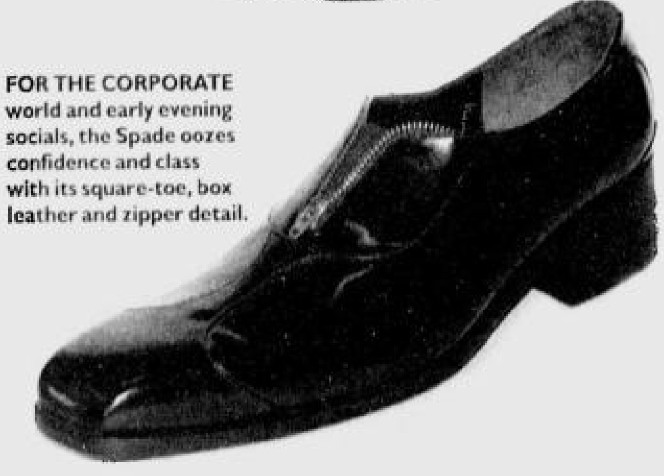
FOR AFTERNOON or evening garden parties, the Evening Artichoke is a bias-toed, layered moccasin shoe in cream sheen leather.



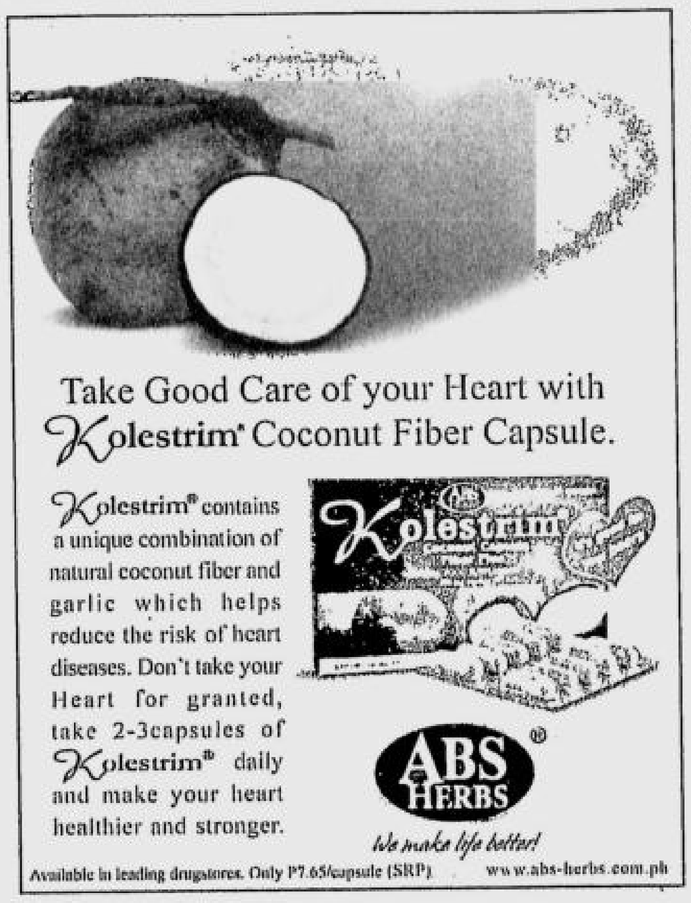
FOR PARTIES and discos, Irreverent Wingtips dispels the usual notion of white as boring. Irreverence happens when Swarovski studs are set on double-buckle monk strap slip-on in cream sheen leather. Also available as a boot.



FOR FORMAL everyday wear, the Monk Minimalist is a bias-toed shoe with bar velcroed monk strap in dark blue nappa.



FOR THE CORPORATE world and early evening socials, the Spade oozes confidence and class with its square-toe, box leather and zipper detail.



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b2s checklist

☑ SHOES

☑ FLORSHEIM USA KIDS

☑ gibi

☑ Barbie

We've got it all for you!

SM DEPARTMENT STORE

ilable at the children's shoes department

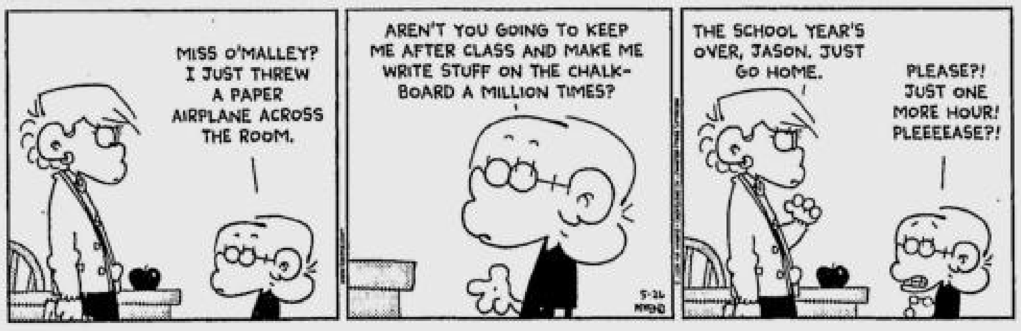
QUIAPO • MAKATI • CUBAO • HARRISON • NORTH EDSA • STA. MESA • ORTIGAS
S PINAS • BACOOR • FAIRVIEW • SAN LAZARO • MANILA • PAMPANGA • MANDURRIAO
DELGADO • CEBU • DAVAO • CAGAYAN DE ORO • BICUTAN • LUCENA • BAGUIO
ARILAO • DASMARIÑAS • BATANGAS • STA. ROSA • SUCAT • CLARK • MALL OF ASIA

ComicRelief

e-mail feedback at arts@inquirer.com.ph

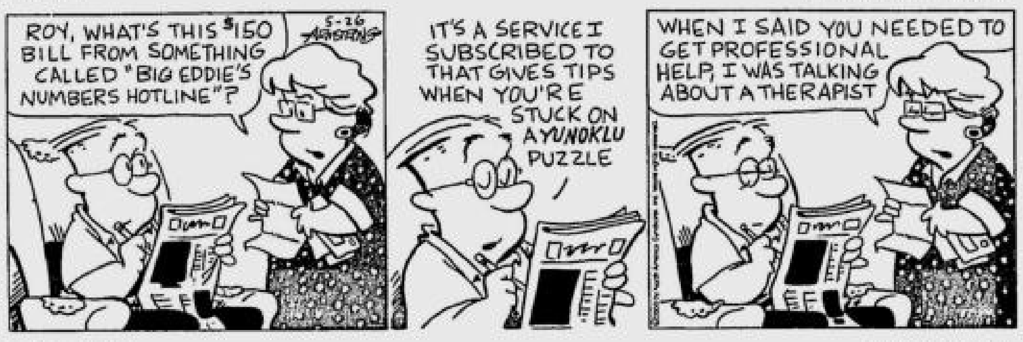
FOXTROT

BY BILL AMEND


MISS O'MALLEY? I JUST THREW A PAPER AIRPLANE ACROSS THE ROOM.
AREN'T YOU GOING TO KEEP ME AFTER CLASS AND MAKE ME WRITE STUFF ON THE CHALKBOARD A MILLION TIMES?
5-26 AMEND
THE SCHOOL YEAR'S OVER, JASON. JUST GO HOME.
PLEASE?! JUST ONE MORE HOUR! PLEEEEASE?!

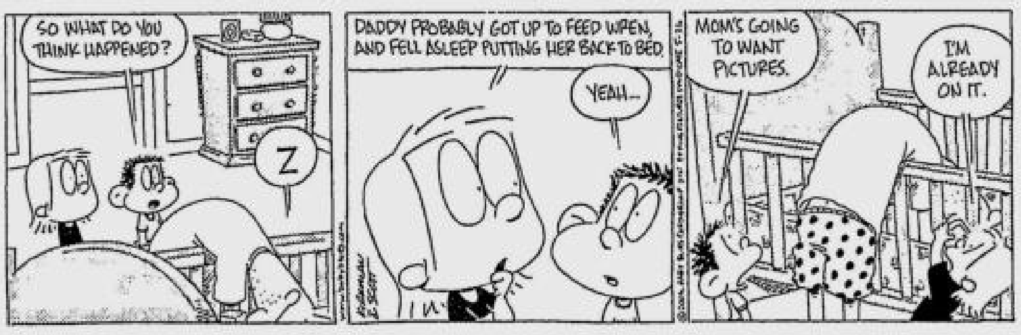
MARVIN

BY TOM ARMSTRONG


ROY, WHAT'S THIS $150 BILL FROM SOMETHING CALLED "BIG EDDIE'S NUMBERS HOTLINE"?
5-26 ARMSTRONG
IT'S A SERVICE I SUBSCRIBED TO THAT GIVES TIPS WHEN YOU'RE STUCK ON A YUNOKLU PUZZLE
WHEN I SAID YOU NEEDED TO GET PROFESSIONAL HELP, I WAS TALKING ABOUT A THERAPIST

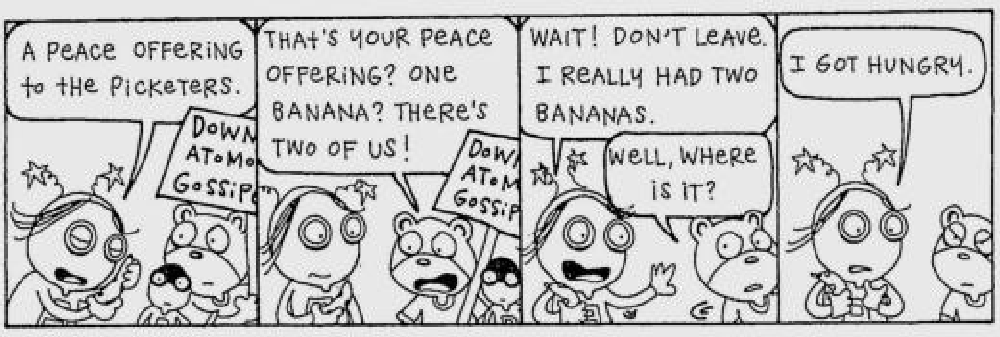
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


SO WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENED?
Z
DADDY PROBABLY GOT UP TO FEED WREN, AND FELL ASLEEP PUTTING HER BACK TO BED.
YEAH...
MOM'S GOING TO WANT PICTURES.
I'M ALREADY ON IT.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


A PEACE OFFERING to the PICKETERS.
DOWN ATOMO GOSSIP
THAT'S YOUR PEACE OFFERING? ONE BANANA? THERE'S TWO OF US!
DOWN ATOM GOSSIP
WAIT! DON'T LEAVE. I REALLY HAD TWO BANANAS.
WELL, WHERE IS IT?
I GOT HUNGRY.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have a strong sense of justice, and you value honesty. You have the courage to walk your talk. You're warm-hearted, conservative and protective of loved ones. Even if you're highly social, you're a very private person. Home and family are important to you, especially in your 30s and 40s. You have an important choice to make in the year ahead. Choose wisely.
Birthdate of: Pam Grier, actress; John Wayne, actor; Sally Ride, astronaut.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Be patient with others today. Arguments flare up easily. This is also an accident-prone day. Take everything slowly. Forewarned is forearmed.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Discussions with authority figures are extremely dicey. (This includes parents, teachers, bosses and the police.) Don't throw your weight around. Resist the urge to flip someone the bird.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Today your ruler, Mercury, makes a harsh aspect to unpredictable Uranus. This means anything can happen. Think before you speak. Don't be rash or too quick in your movements.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Bright, original ideas might occur to you today. They pop up out of the blue. Many of them might be impractical, but one of them might be worthy of a genius!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might meet a real character today. However, you might also have an argument with a friend. Or both things could happen. Cool your jets. Be gracious about interruptions that occur with group activities.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Definitely avoid arguments with authority figures today. If you don't, explosions will occur. You feel rebellious, and you're ready to throw in the towel.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Thoughts flash through your mind today. New ideas about politics, religion or other cultures are mind-blowing. Just digest these. You don't have to make your mind up about anything right now.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Keep an eye on your bank account today. Checks could bounce! Be extra vigilant if you are responsible for other people or their property. Things are very unpredictable now.

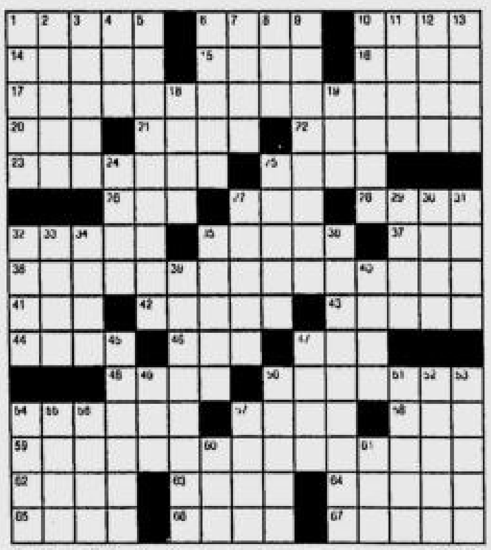
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Conversations can quickly become argumentative today. People are touchy! Listen to what others have to say. Try to be laid back. Don't make a big deal out of things.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Power outages and computer breakdowns are likely today. Your work schedule will definitely be interrupted. Things are quite unpredictable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your imagination is charged today. You're capable of near-genius ideas. That's because you're thinking out-of-the-box. (And romance could hold a few surprises as well!)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Breakages, minor accidents and problems with small appliances could occur at home today. Domestic arguments might also break out. Just go with the flow, and remember to smile.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

5/26/06

ACROSS

- 1 Was deserving of
- 6 Pilgrimage to Mecca
- 10 Love handles
- 14 Texas mission
- 15 Funnies pooch
- 16 Clinton attorney general
- 17 Purely platonic
- 20 Pub pint
- 21 Proceeds
- 22 Opinion pieces
- 23 Friendly relations
- 25 Gimme a break
- 26 Former queen of Spain
- 27 Jackie's O
- 28 Singer Redding
- 32 Razz
- 35 PGA great Sammy
- 37 Two-by-two vessel
- 38 Potent firewater
- 41 "A Bug's Life" hero
- 42 Flags
- 43 Reagan attorney general
- 44 Impulsive
- 46 Shirt tag abbr.
- 47 Charge for services
- 48 Way to store data
- 50 Blowhard
- 54 Entity's manifestation
- 57 Roughly
- 58 Cassowary cousin
- 59 Kelley Blue Book info, e.g.
- 62 Ray of "Battle Cry"
- 63 "Mickey Blue Eyes" co-star
- 64 Grand sagas
- 65 __ my lips!
- 66 Florida islands
- 67 Onion relatives

DOWN

- 1 Indian monarch
- 2 Gene Vincent's "Be-Bop-__"
- 3 Stun gun
- 4 CPR specialist
- 5 Shucks!
- 6 Baloney!
- 7 Claps on
- 8 Peter Pan rival
- 9 Isaiah follower
- 10 California city
- 11 Diva Horne
- 12 Capp of the comics
- 13 Big cheese
- 18 Wife of Charlie Chaplin
- 19 Late starter?
- 24 Tableland
- 25 Gangs
- 27 Fed the kitty
- 29 Give's partner?
- 30 Angry states
- 31 Hebrides island
- 32 Ruler before Lenin
- 33 View from Catania
- 34 __ and crafts
- 35 Reduce to tatters
- 36 Hack paperback
- 39 Tchotchke
- 40 Sesame, for one
- 45 Muscle car
- 47 Closed hand
- 49 '60s war zone
- 50 Small songbirds
- 51 Misrepresent
- 52 Wild way to run?
- 53 Wild stab
- 54 Yonder
- 55 Crooner Jerry
- 56 Verdi classic
- 57 Approve
- 60 "Norma __"
- 61 Simian

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

E	L	A	M	■	S	T	L	O	■	V	I	S	E	S
L	I	N	E	■	C	R	A	M	■	E	N	A	T	E
L	E	N	S	■	R	E	I	N	■	E	C	L	A	T
A	D	E	A	D	E	N	D	I	S	J	U	S	T	A
■	■	■	■	R	E	D	■	■	P	A	R	■	■	■
R	A	I	S	O	N	■	P	O	L	Y	■	I	D	A
I	N	D	I	O	■	L	A	M	A	■	S	N	A	G
G	O	O	D	P	L	A	C	E	T	O	T	U	R	N
I	D	L	E	■	I	V	A	N	■	M	A	R	N	E
D	E	S	■	E	V	E	S	■	C	A	R	E	S	S
■	■	■	O	R	E	■	■	H	O	N	■	■	■	■
A	R	O	U	N	D	N	A	O	M	I	J	U	D	D
P	A	T	T	I	■	O	L	D	E	■	O	K	A	Y
S	H	I	R	E	■	R	A	I	D	■	K	E	R	N
E	S	S	E	S	■	D	E	N	Y	■	E	S	T	E

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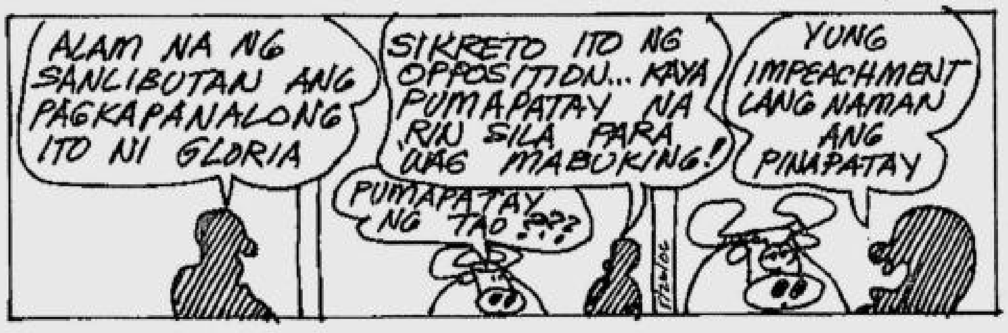
5/25/06

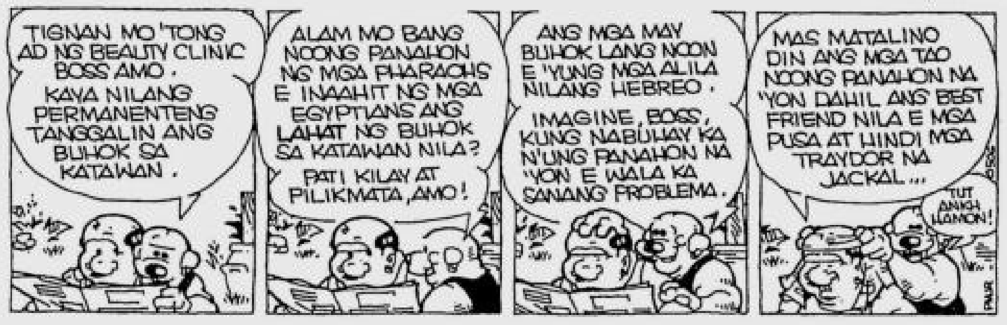
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ALAM NA NG SANLIBUTAN ANG PAGKAPANALONG ITO NI GLORIA
SIKRETO ITO NG OPPOSITION... KAYA PUMAPATAY NA RIN SILA PARA 'WAG MABUKING!
PUMAPATAY NG TAO ???
YUNG IMPEACHMENT LANG NAMAN ANG PINAPATAY

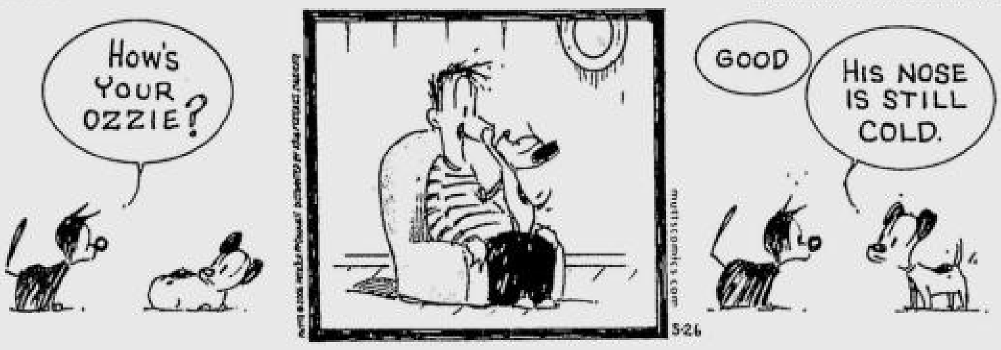
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


TIGNAN MO 'TONG AD NG BEAUTY CLINIC BOSS AMO. KAYA NILANG PERMANENTENG TANGGALIN ANG BUHOK SA KATAWAN.
ALAM MO BANG NOONG PANAHON NG MGA PHARAOHS E INAAHIT NG MGA EGYPTIANS ANG LAHAT NG BUHOK SA KATAWAN NILA?
PATI KILAY AT PILIKMATA, AMO!
ANG MGA MAY BUHOK LANG NOON E 'YUNG MGA ALILA NILANG HEBREO.
IMAGINE, BOSS, KUNG NABUHAY KA N'UNG PANAHON NA 'YON E WALA KA SANANG PROBLEMA.
MAS MATALINO DIN ANG MGA TAO NOONG PANAHON NA 'YON DAHIL ANG BEST FRIEND NILA E MGA PUSA AT HINDI MGA TRAYDOR NA JACKAL...
TUT ANGH LAMON!

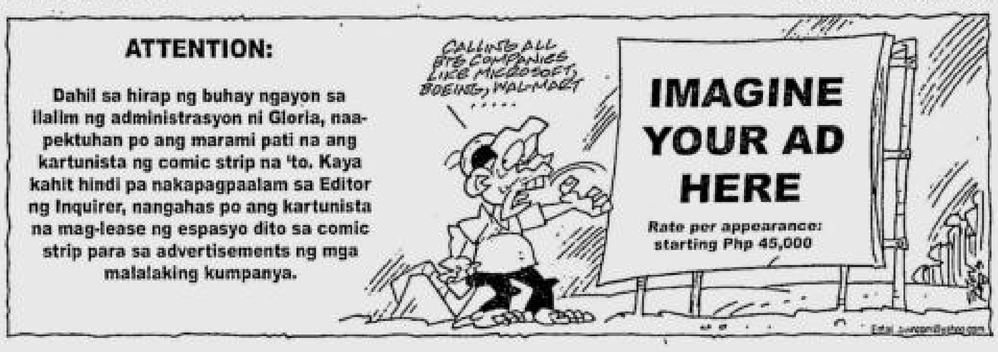
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HOW'S YOUR OZZIE?
muttscomics.com
5-26
GOOD
HIS NOSE IS STILL COLD.

DIVINE COMEDY

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



ATTENTION:

Dahil sa hirap ng buhay ngayon sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni Gloria, naapektuhan po ang marami pati na ang kartunista ng comic strip na 'to. Kaya kahit hindi pa nakapagpaalam sa Editor ng Inquirer, nangahas po ang kartunista na mag-lease ng espasyo dito sa comic strip para sa advertisements ng mga malalaking kumpanya.

CALLING ALL BIG COMPANIES LIKE MICROSOFT, BOEING, WALMART .....
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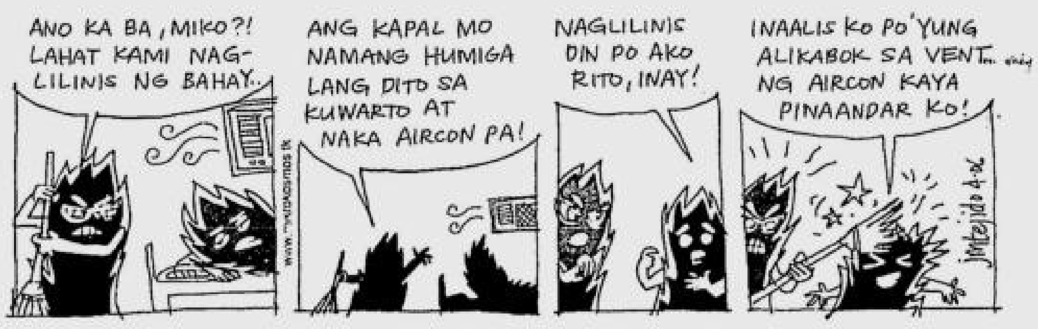
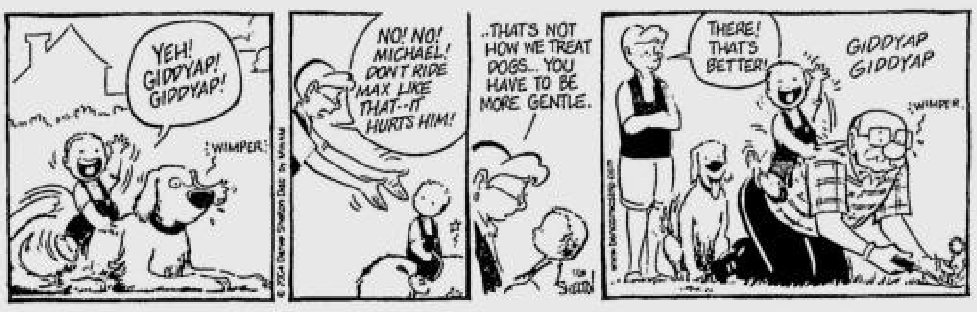
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


ANO KA BA, MIKO?! LAHAT KAMI NAGLILINIS NG BAHAY..
ANG KAPAL MO NAMANG HUMIGA LANG DITO SA KUWARTO AT NAKA AIRCON PA!
NAGLILINIS DIN PO AKO RITO, INAY!
INAALIS KO PO 'YUNG ALIKABOK SA VENT... ng AIRCON KAYA PINAANDAR KO!
jmtejido

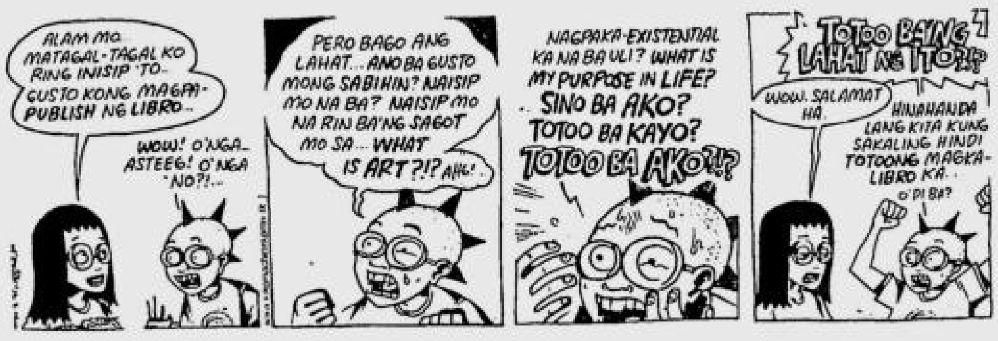
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


YEH! GIDDYAP! GIDDYAP!
WIMPER
NO! NO! MICHAEL! DON'T RIDE MAX LIKE THAT--IT HURTS HIM!
..THAT'S NOT HOW WE TREAT DOGS... YOU HAVE TO BE MORE GENTLE.
THERE! THAT'S BETTER!
GIDDYAP GIDDYAP
WIMPER

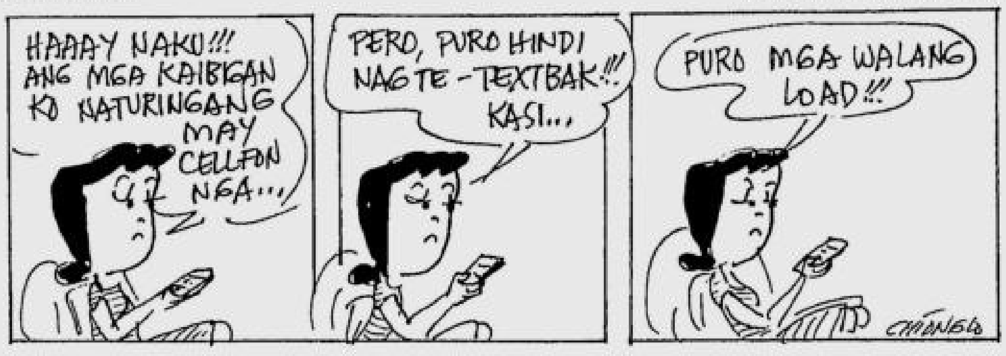
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


ALAM MO... MATAGAL-TAGAL KO RING INISIP 'TO... GUSTO KONG MAGPA-PUBLISH NG LIBRO...
WOW! O'NGA... ASTEEG! O'NGA 'NO?!...
PERO BAGO ANG LAHAT... ANO BA GUSTO MONG SABIHIN? NAISIP MO NA BA? NAISIP MO NA RIN BA'NG SAGOT MO SA... WHAT IS ART?!? AH!
NAGPAKA-EXISTENTIAL KA NA BA ULI? WHAT IS MY PURPOSE IN LIFE? SINO BA AKO? TOTOO BA KAYO? TOTOO BA AKO?!?
TOTOO BA'NG LAHAT NG ITO?!?
WOW. SALAMAT HA.
HINAHANDA LANG KITA KUNG SAKALING HINDI TOTOONG MAGKA-LIBRO KA. O' DI BA?

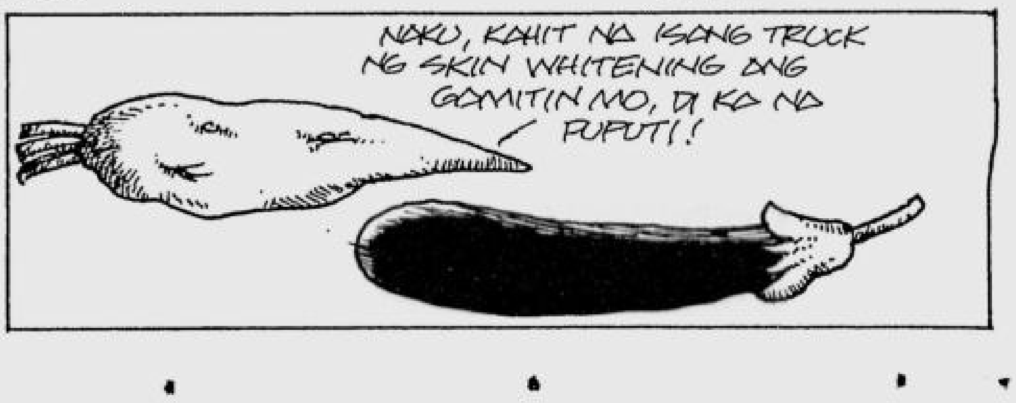
LOVEKNOTS

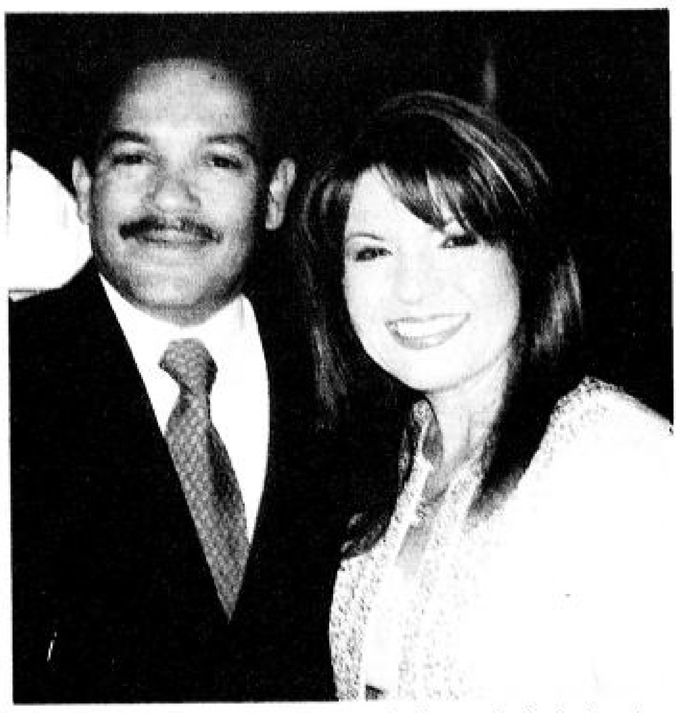
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


HAAAY NAKU!!! ANG MGA KAIBIGAN KO NATURINGANG MAY CELLFON NGA...,
PERO, PURO HINDI NAGTE-TEXTBAK!!! KASI...,
PURO MGA WALANG LOAD!!!
CHIONGLO

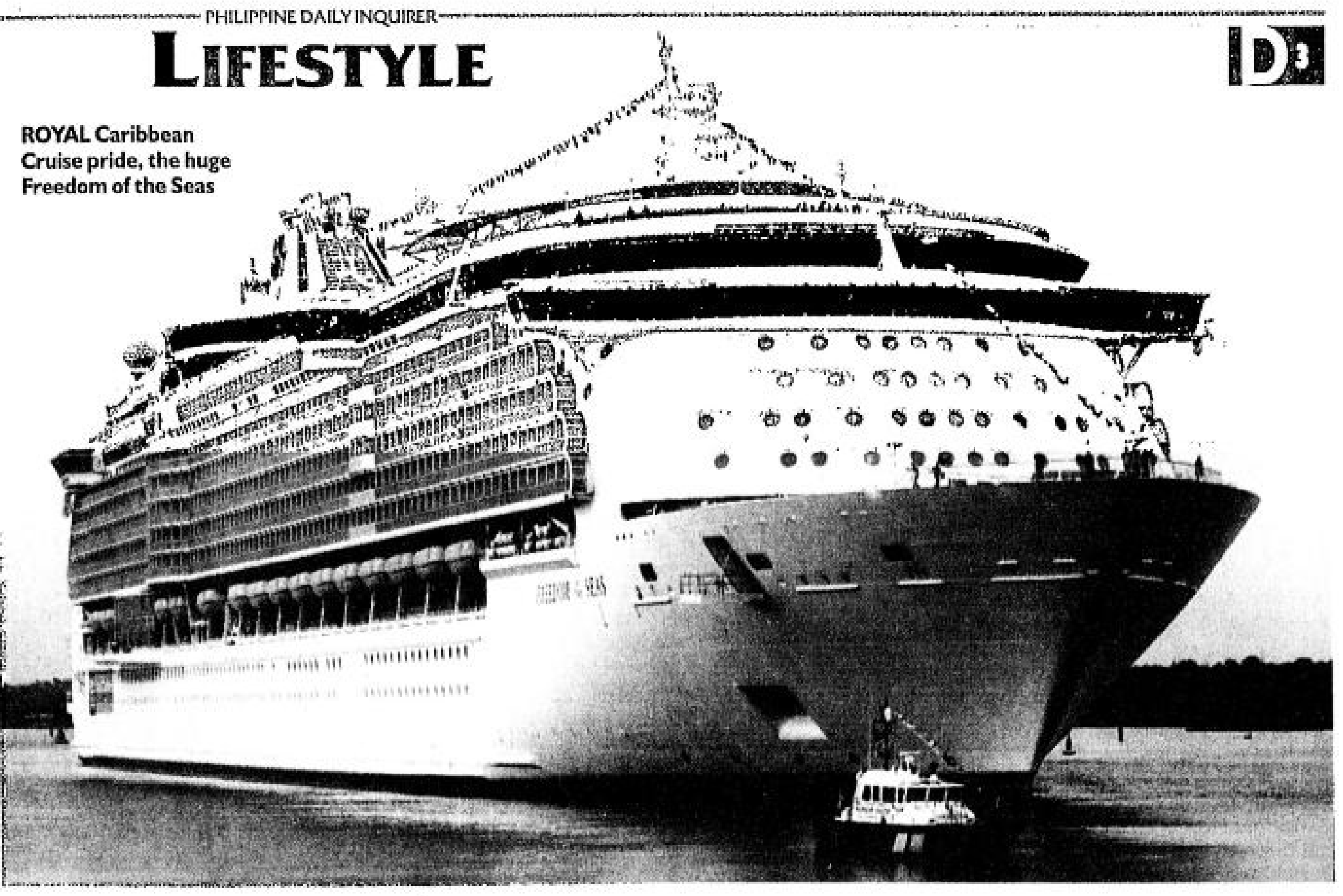
TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NAKU, KAHIT NA ISANG TRUCK NG SKIN WHITENING ANG GAMITIN MO, DI KA NA PUPUTI!



RAMA Rebbapragada, Royal Caribbean's director for Latin America, the Caribbean and Asia Pacific; and Maria Sastre, VP for sales and marketing communications



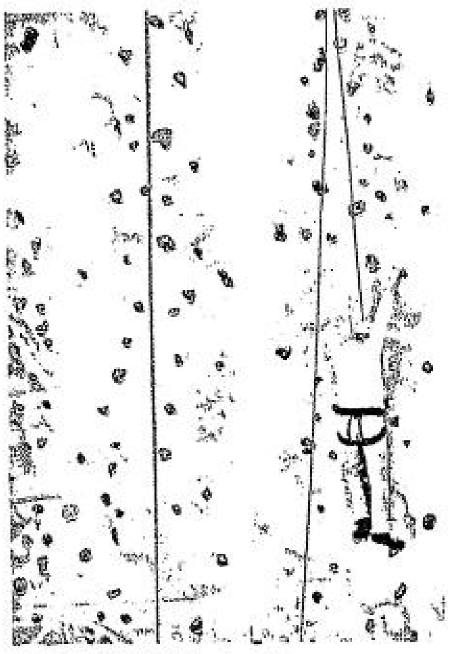
ROYAL Caribbean Cruise pride, the huge Freedom of the Seas

Enjoying my Freedom to cruise the seas

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

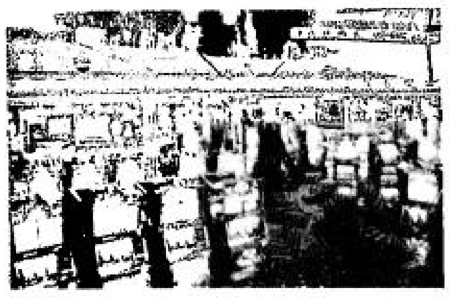
Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

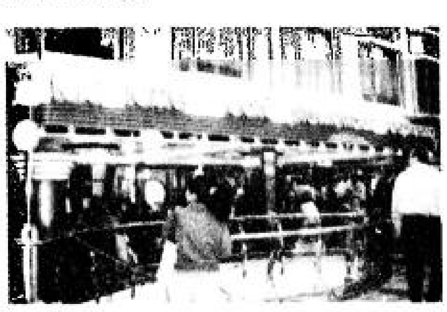


ROCK-CLIMBING in the high seas

THE STUNNING 368-ft Royal Promenade



CASINO Royal



CAFÉS and shops at the Royal Promenade

THE GLORIOUS ART OF THE TRAVEL cruise has reached ultra-elegant heights with the launching of the humongous Freedom of the Seas, the largest luxury ship in the world, dahlings.

We were lucky enough to be chosen as the Filipino representative in the historical maiden voyage of this chic floating island.

Jetting into wonderful Amsterdam after a most enjoyable direct 13-hour flight aboard KLM's state-of-the-art plane Aircraft Boeing 777 (where you are served and pampered by the excellent service and *tres charmant* flight crew), we headed straight to our hotel for three days of sightseeing in the colorful city and learning all the facts that make the Schipol Airport one of the most popular airports in the world.

The "we" included **Dindin Monserrate** of Air France-KLM; **Joy Abrogar** of the popular Arpan Airpole, international representative of Royal Caribbean Cruises; Philippine Daily Inquirer's **Tessa Prieto-Valdes**; and the Star's **Joanne Ramirez** and **Kathy Moran**.

Next stop was London. We stayed at the newly renovated ultra-chic Guaman Cuberland, a skip and a hop away from Oxford Street and Marbel Arch.

Two days later, we took an hour-and-a-half bus ride to Southampton, England, for... the cruise.

There she was, a gorgeous floating island, the Freedom of the Seas, proudly docked at the pier. The sight left all of us speechless. We just managed a single word—"Wow!"

It was amazing that in spite of the 3,000 other invited journalists and travel agents from all over the world, we were billeted in a superb state-room on the ninth deck, with a cool balcony to sit and watch the outside world as we cruised by.

Taking just three years to design and build, and costing an awesome $800,000, this 160,000-ton ship holding 4,375 passengers is definitely the world's largest cruise ship.

Freedom has 1,817 state rooms, 842 of which has balconies; 15 passenger decks; a 1,350 people-capacity theater, where we watched top-quality Broadway musical productions; 10 fantastic restaurants; 16 elegant cozy bars and lounges; and, take note, a colorful, cool water park, a first on any cruise ship; the to-see-is-to-believe surfing open arena; an ice-skating rink; rock-climbing wall; a boxing ring; a mini golf course; the mind-boggling shopping and entertainment boulevard; even a serene chapel; and cantilevered whirlpools that extend 12 ft out from the sides of the ship with a spectacular view down to the ocean 112 ft below.

Pinoy crew

While having a late lunch at the huge Windjammer resto on Deck 11 (where one can gorge on the endless choices of international or Asian buffet), we exchanged pleasantries with some Filipino waiters.

Soon, word got around that a Filipino media group was on board and the next thing we knew, we were swamped with well-wishers from most of the Filipino crew. They took care of us wherever we ate or went.

In fact, at the dinner held at the super elegant three-decked, chandeliered dining room, we had more than eight of our countrymen excitedly serving us. (There usually were two waiters per table of 6-10).

The favored treatment we were getting from the Filipino crew compelled the Cuban beauty, *la simpatica* **Maria Sastre**, Royal Caribbean's vice president for sales and marketing communication, to remark, "I think I better sit with all of you, you'll be getting the best service on this ship."

In fact, the Royal Caribbean president, tall **Adam Goldstein**, commented, "Filipinos constitute the biggest number of employees of the 107 countries represented on the ship."

Even the 48-year-old Norwegian captain, **William Wright**, a respected master in the shipping industry, said, "The Filipino crew we have are one of the best in the world and we are very proud of them," getting loud applause during the international press con at the Arcadia theater.

Enjoying the cruise

An additional treat for me was seeing again my pal from past Royal Caribbean cruises, the brilliant **Rama Rebbapragada**, who is now regional director for Latin America, Caribbean and Asia Pacific (Lacap).

We would all meet for a late breakfast, after which our gang would go our separate ways, but would bump into each other at the Royal Promenade, which was definitely one of the most popular features on the Freedom.

Located on Deck 5, the Royal Promenade is where one can find shops selling perfumes, shoes, clothes and watches. There is even a general store, where Joy A., Tessa P. V. and I would shop for friends and for ourselves, natch.

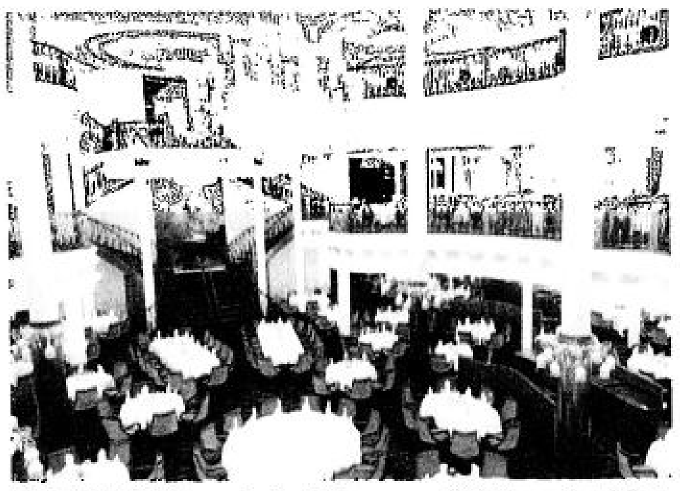
On the deck also are Café Promenade and Seattle's Best Coffee, where Joanne R. would sip her coffee and eat yummy sweets. Also, there is the popular Ben and Jerry's ice cream parlor where energetic Kathy M. (who would spend lots of time at the high-tech gym or at the Internet club) would join us for the deadly but mmm-delicious flavors.

You're in the mood for Italian? There is the Sarriento's Pizzeria. Quench your thirst at the Bull and Bear pub. For drinks, go to the excellent wine bar, Vintages.

They even have on the promenade the Clean Shave barber shop, where men can get a cut, shave or massage the old-fashioned way.

Want more entertainment? Keep walking, and you'll be entering Casino Royal.

(To be concluded next week)



THE DAZZLING three-decked dining room with its huge chandeliers

SURFBOARDING aboard the Freedom of the Seas

PINOY crew at the Windjammer resto on Deck 11: Noe Orbase, executive chef; Cheryl Feeney, waitress; Thaddeus Par, culinary chef; and Lord Manlupaz, waiter

IN-DEMAND Pinoy crew members: Richard Boston, June Rasay, Evelyn de Guzman and Eliseo Roquero

THE POPULAR Ben and Jerry's ice cream parlor at the Promenade

AT THE POSH KLM flight: Joanne Ramirez, Tessa Prieto-Valdes; (back) Joy Abrogar, *moi*, Dindin Monserrate and Kathy Moran

AT THE GRAND Captain's Night: Tessa Prieto-Valdes, *moi*, Baron Travel's Joy Abrogar; Air France-KLM's Dindin Monserrate, Kathy Moran and Joanne Ramirez

FABULOUS fireworks send us off on our cruise.

Know where your daughter's sleeping in Bora (and with whom)

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

DON'T LOOK AT ME, MINE are sons. Thank God, I don't have to be paranoid about the technical stuff (like virginity).

But then, as I look around and see how "Bora" has become a rite of passage for today's generation of Filipinos, I also observe how "parents' rules" have loosened up for their daughters—rules like, where to sleep and with whom.

This is because the entire *barkada* flies to Bora and rooms in *barkada* accommodations, like five or 11 in a room, bunk beds and all. Sometimes though it's even two-is-to-one in a room: two boys, one girl.

Of course, I sound utterly outdated, if not hokey (corny—a term used on me at Stanford University in California years ago when I insisted on receiving my reissued credit card myself), to bring up such, uh, minor details.

Unlike in the days of old, today's guys and girls can have fun relationships without the usual sexual tensions of old. Or if they do have sex and the attendant tension (and pleasure), they survive it, and move on—to the morning after. So casual.

But still, I was *makulit* with my staff and asked, is it okay with today's parents? Rooming in and sleeping with whomever may be fine for the 20something, but for teens, even the 18 year olds?

Are today's parents really that "cool," I asked my staff.

"No, they just don't know," said one editor. "Or sometimes they tell their folks that girls all sleep together, and the same with the guys."

It is the era of 'hanging out' and sort of a rite of passage for parents

"BORA" has become a rite of passage for today's generation of Filipinos.

Ah, I thought so. I don't think Pinoy parents (especially of teens) have taken a 180-degree turn; it's just that today's kids have become more generic, or casual and cool with their explanations to their folks.

Filipino fathers are overprotective of their daughters, so what they don't know won't hurt them. But before they froth in the mouth and tear up all those Bora plane tickets, consider also this: Bora is a big party place now, no longer the idyllic island paradise it was years ago. People go there to party. It's for the entire *barkada*.

And at the end of the day, after a whole night of partying, these kids really just crash in bed, too tired for anything, perhaps (perhaps!) even sex. (My mindset's mothballed all right. But that's to quiet the father's by-now overactive imagination.)

They don't date now, so much as hang out. The genders come together not one-on-one, but in groups, which is why it's not that stilted compared to the '70s.

In "Good Girls Don't Eat Dessert," popular US psychologists Rosalyn M. Meadow and Lillie Weiss write that perhaps, today's girls find it more difficult to land a steady date, much less get a guy to commit to a relationship—because they're so willing to just "hang out."

But then, let's not go there; that's a different story.

(I mentioned this to **Louie Cruz**, Bora's "patriarch" and asked if it was any different from his partying days in the '70s and '80s. "I made sure then we had only one room," he said. End of story.)

But really, again at the end of the day, it's about kids growing up to face the consequences of their action, for good or bad.

Parents can't be around all the time everywhere, Bora or not. It's us choosing how to let go. In my case, I try to "manage" how I will let go. Talk about oxymoron—conflicting terms.

My whole point is, Bora is a rite of passage not only for the kids. It's also becoming some rite of passage for Filipino parents.

Budji in China

If there's one Filipino artist who's going global quietly, it must be **Budji Layug**, the consummate home and furnishings designer who won a lifetime achievement award for it and with Eli Pinto, put up the milestone-setting Movement 8. If we didn't run into him last week, we wouldn't have known that Budji Living showrooms are, after Bangkok, already in Kuala Lumpur and Beijing.

Of course, Budji's furniture is in many stores worldwide. In Beijing, however, he's also busy at work on a building to be finished for the Beijing Olympics.

It should be something to see how Budji, known for his Asian modern style, is crafting what is Oriental and Chinese-inspired.

Lohan for Vuitton

The buzz is loud that 19-year-old Hollywood icon **Lindsay Lohan** will be the new celebrity face of Louis Vuitton, after **Uma Thurman**.

While **Marc Jacobs** is said to veer toward models (like the *übermodel* **Giselle**), LVMH's head **Bernard Arnault** is said to be a believer of the immense drawing power of Hollywood celebrities.

WWD also reported that **Diane Keaton** has signed up with L'Oreal to be its celebrity woman for Age Perfect Pro-Calcium skincare line to be launched in the US in July. The campaign targets 60-year-olds and above, Diane having turned 60. This just proves how in beauty and skincare, the market is getting wider—from teens to the 70-year-olds—yet more segmented. There's a product for each age segment, as L O'real is successfully doing.

Jean Paul Gaultier is designing **Madonna's** wardrobe in her Confessions tour this month. There's also a Madonna Gallerie—a museum of all the pop art created around this icon—at the W in Los Angeles, the ultimate tribute to an era's legend.

E-mail the author at thelma_ssanjuan @abs.pinoycentral.com

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8 WEEKS OF SHOPPING MADNESS

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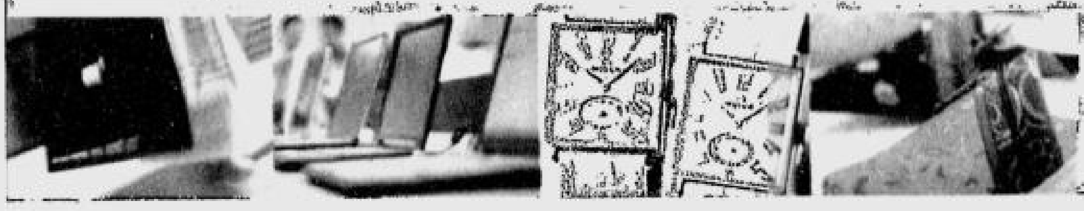

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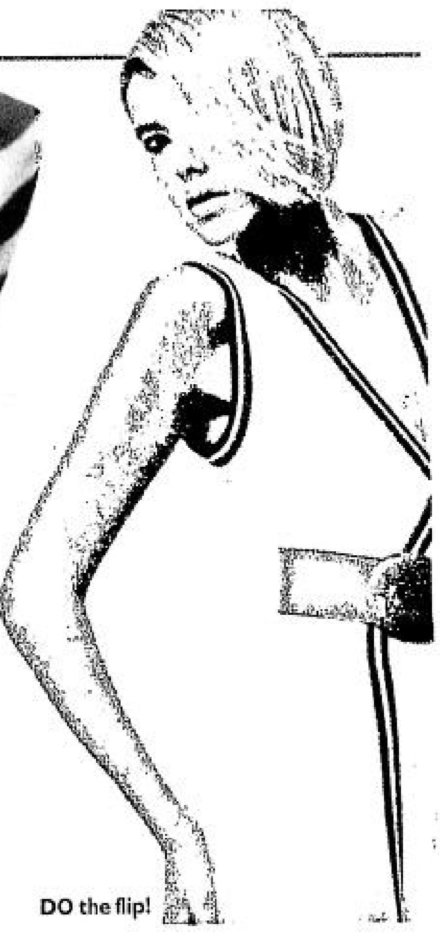
BEAUTY

SIDE-SWIPED

I can, icon!

DON'T be square



DO the flip!

Jackie, Twiggy, Grace Kelly—the gang's all here in this season's new hairstyles

By Jenni Epperson

THE POWER OF A TRUE style icon becomes apparent when future generations reinvent the icon into a fresh new form.

Just think of the various reincarnations of the Jackie O sunglasses, the architectural mini-dress made popular in the "Jetsons" cartoon, Twiggy's bob cut, Barbarella's big hair now reborn through J. Lo, or YSL's Le Smoking and all its splendid permutations...

These images find themselves resurfacing over and over again through each decade. Designers, hairdressers and fashion stylists all take inspiration from them. In this year's L'Oreal Color Trophy, the theme "Retro-Future" was interpreted by hundreds of hairdressers nationwide, producing strong and beautiful hair reinventions taken from '60s icons.

Retro-Future means taking from the past and reinterpreting it with a modern or futuristic slant. In L'Oreal's recent hair competition, I saw how vintage visual elements were remixed into a techno-industrial hybrid. For hair design, the result was an unexpected combination of lines, shapes and colors.

I was honored that L'Oreal asked me again to be one of the judges in this year's competition. I asked many participating hairdressers how they would redesign each Retro-Future look and tailor-make it to different and unique clients in their salons. They were bursting with ideas, such as swapping long lengths with short ones or switching color placements.

Today's hairdresser is imaginative as he is practical. He must dream of exciting new looks and execute these creations on discerning clients. The modern woman, on the other hand, is informed and always ready to make a change, but takes her lifestyle into consideration. I was proud to see how our local stylists have themselves evolved into artists, but with practical mindsets. Who wants to wear Barbarella do's to the office, anyway?

Visit your favorite salon now and ask your hairdresser to create a customized Retro-Future look for you. There's nothing more fun than collaborating on your own reinvention, and the reinvention of your favorite style icon!

Meanwhile, I'm heading off to "mother" Henri Calayag in H Salon for a "Devil Wears Prada"-inspired bob.

Email the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

L'OREAL grand prize winner Richard Bilalo Jr. of Flandre Salon Greenbelt

FIRST runner-up Gilbert Revilloza from David's Salon, SM Bicutan

NEXT Generation winner, Melchor "JR" Bartolome from Angelo Falconi salon

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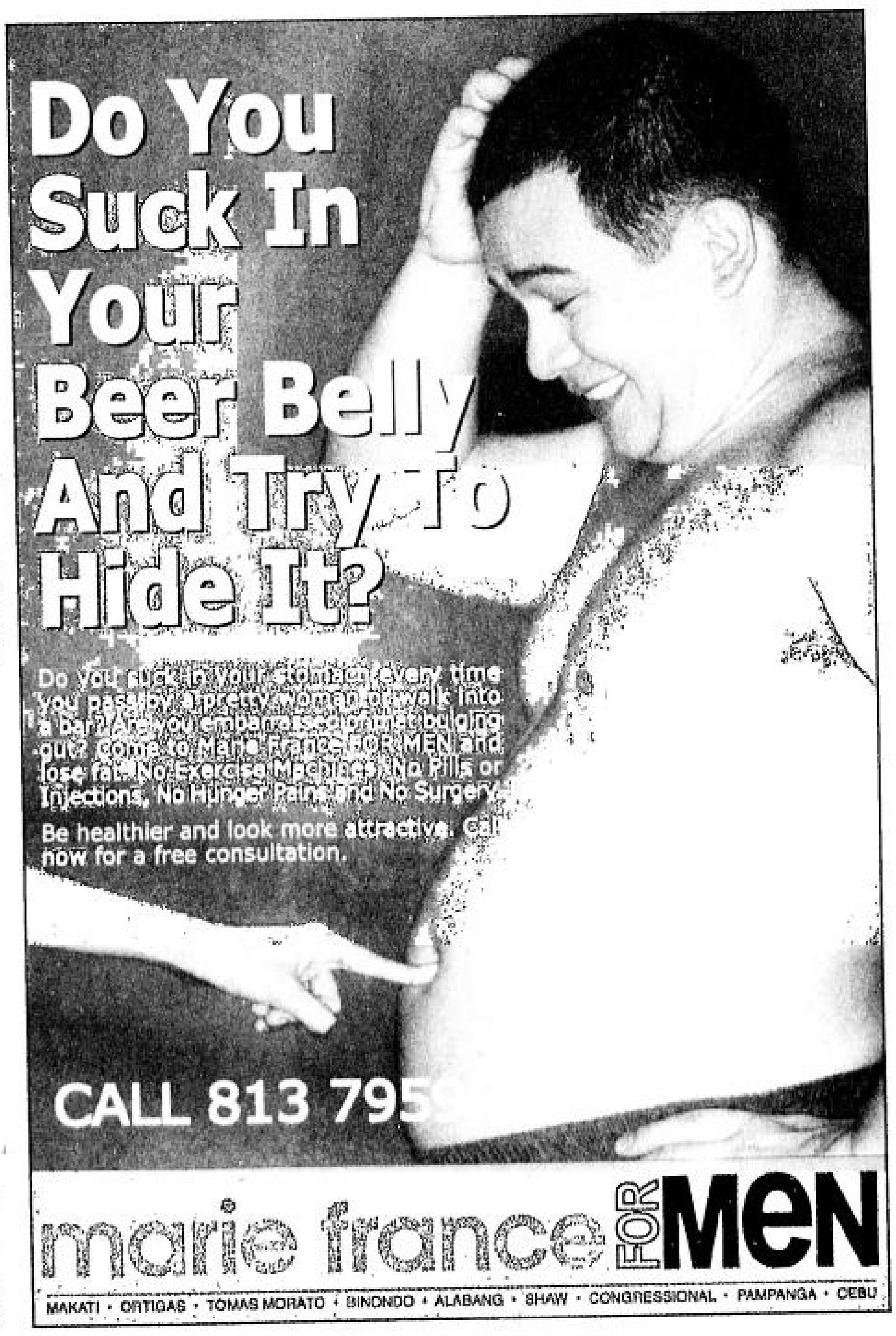

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KERASTASE Aminexil

CLARINS Men Shine Free gel (left) and Shiseido Men Body Creator Abdomen toning gel

Early shopping for Father's Day

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

FATHERS HAVE physical-maintenance needs as well. They just don't feel very comfortable admitting this, much less going out to buy beauty-care products themselves. There were no metrosexuals back in their prime so they just use Mom's stash, if at all. Here are gift ideas for dads to suit any budget .

Gift of health: If Dad likes to drink alcohol and eat fatty food, we can only monitor and caution him to take it easy for his liver's own good. One gift I give my male friends is Silymarin Milk Thistle supplement, which filters and purges toxins from the liver and helps it regenerate.

Health Express' (HE) Silymarin at 1,000 mg (P550 for 60 pcs) is three times more than most brands, so taking it once a day is sufficient. Glutathione (P1,200/30 pcs) at HE is the woman's liver and immunity supplement; but men don't want the skin-whitening side effect so they could use Silymarin.

Another popular item for men at HE is Ultra Man multivitamins. Perhaps it's the name that makes it a favorite because the next best-seller is Maximum Male multivitamins for men. I have been buying so much of HE's Ultra Man that HE has suggested the first five people who bring my column to the Glorietta 3 store will get a free bottle of Ultra Man. Call Health Express at Glorietta, tel. 8927978.

Good hair day: Take Dad for a makeover so he will have good hair days. My guinea pig is always my brother who is not vain at all. I have taken him to several stylists, and he just regularly comes back to two because he loves the hassle and maintenance-free hair that just looks good even when he just rolls off the bed in the morning. These two stylists are Ken Tam of Salon de Ken, P1,200/cut, and Eddie Magadia of Philosophy by Mikaela, P500/cut for men. Call Salon de Ken at 8481886 and Philosophy at 8921547.

Another great insecurity for them is hair loss and there are effective tonics that strengthen roots and keep the scalp healthy, free from dead skin and hardened oil that causes the hair follicle to die.

Bear in mind that if the area is already hair-free and shiny there is no hope for new hair to grow back. These tonics are only good for those with thinning hair.

Two that work and which I have tried personally are Shiseido Adenogen and Kerastase Aminexil tonic. For hair-loss prevention, Kerastase Bain Prevention shampoo is also something I use.

A more-toned stomach: If women hate cellulite, men hate their belly, which is the last to go no matter how hard they work out.

Shiseido Body Creator has created an Abdomen Toning gel which, like its cellulite-treatment counterpart, feels freezing cold but works to hold in the stomach. I use this myself and the slight pouch I get on my lower abs disappears the morning after and does not swell as much even after a meal.

Cosmetic companies know that to get men to buy a beauty product that is a bit expensive, it better work, and this one sure does. Of course, this is not meant to replace a real workout, but it yields faster results when combined with exercise.

Men's skincare line: Their skin really is different from women's in terms of texture and thickness so men do deserve their own treatments.

Besides, anything too girly-looking freaks them out. For adult acne sufferers, Belo's Acne control kit P1,650 (VAT excluded) does its job and is reasonable, cost-wise.

Kose Junkisui also has an adult acne line which consists of a foaming wash (P895), antitoxin massage serum (P2,250), lotion/toner (P1,250) and moisturizer (P1,450).

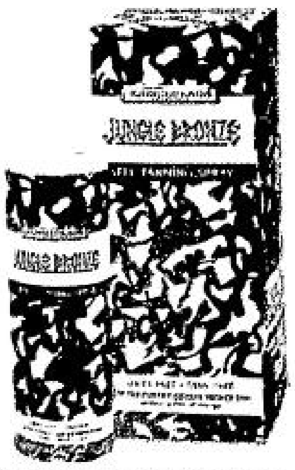
Dads need moisturizer, but they don't want that oily feel and shiny look so I suggest Clarins Men shine-free gel moisturizer which gives bare skin a matte, poreless and silky look which I can attest to.

Other skincare lines that look unisex and simply functional are that of Sekki Sei, Murad and Dermalogica.

Sekki Sei, Kose Junkisui and Murad are available exclusively at Essenses. Clarins and Dermalogica are available at Rustan's Department store.

E-mail the author at kinnysalas@yahoo.com

Get a tan any time you want



JUNGLE Bronze Self-tanning Spray

A GOLDEN TAN CAN BLEND away blemishes, reduce the appearance of cellulite and help make a person appear more toned. But sun exposure damages the skin and contributes to premature aging.

So how does one get that fun summer tan without the dangers posed by the sun's ultraviolet rays?

Kamouflage Cosmetics by Skin Doctors offers fun and safe self-tanning products to provide everybody a sunless, truly natural-looking tan.

Jungle Bronze Bronzing Skin Gloss is the world's first bronzing skin gloss. The rich, exotic moisturizers sink into the skin for the sexiest summer color and the sexiest summer sheen. Jungle Bronze also smells divine and contains sun screen for glowing bronzed skin every time. If you've been looking for that perfect, natural glowing bronzer that doesn't streak and doesn't look orange, you've just found it.

And for a longer-lasting tan, Jungle Bronze Self Tanning Spray is a UV-free, tanning option that is not a skin dye or a cosmetic. It won't wash off or rub on clothes. Instead, Jungle Bronze Self Tanning Spray has been formulated to work in harmony with the skin.

Jungle Bronze Self Tanning Spray is fast-drying, fast-tanning and very easy to apply. Spritzed all over your body, Jungle Bronze gives a deep golden "just back from a week-long tropical beach holiday" tan.

What's the difference between Jungle Bronze Bronzing Skin Gloss and Jungle Bronze Self Tanning Spray?

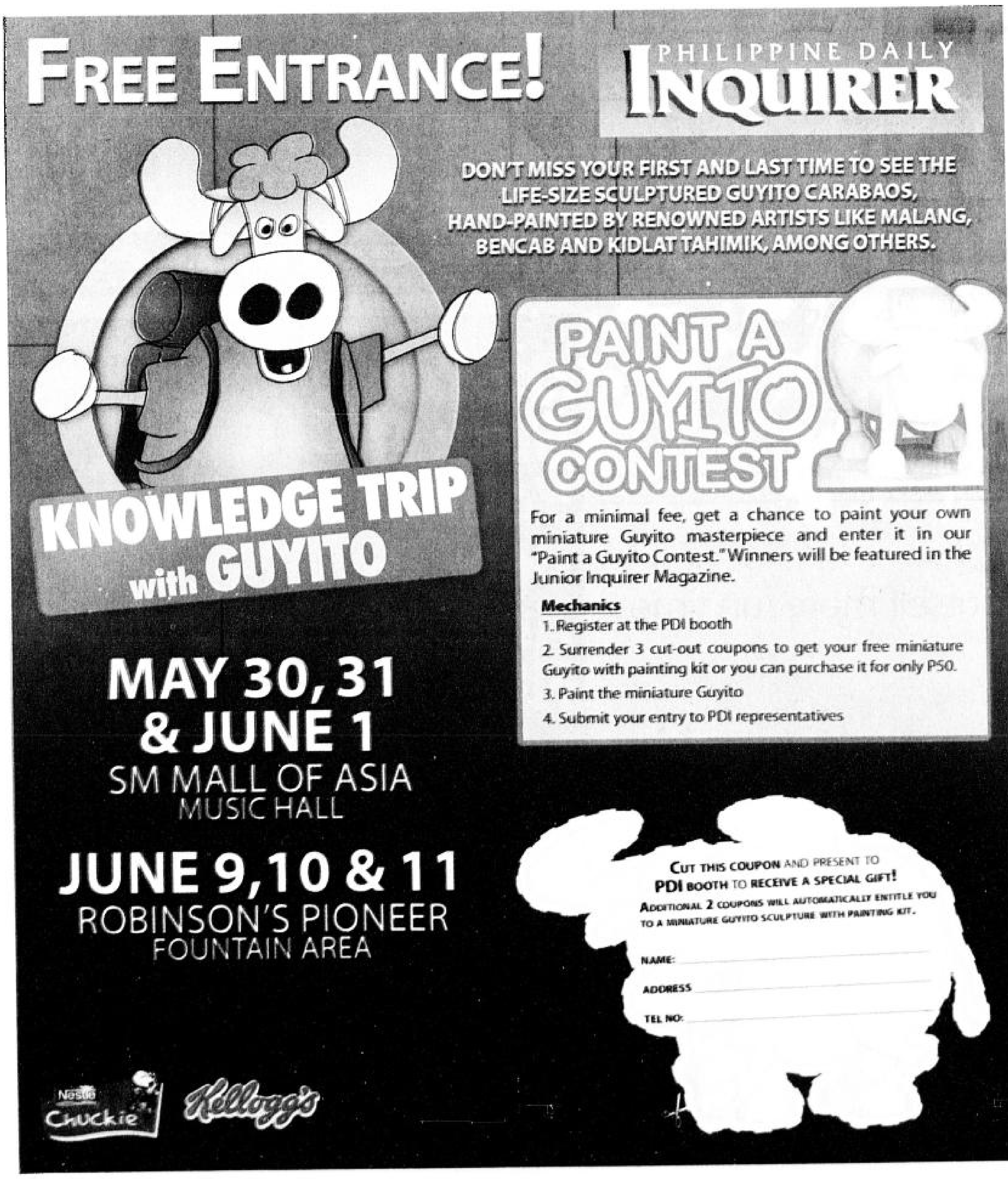
Jungle Bronze Bronzing Skin Gloss is a cosmetic that gives a beautiful, glossy bronzing color. It is applied onto the skin and washes off.

Jungle Bronze Self Tanning Spray is a spray that reacts with the outer layer of the skin to promote a tanning color. Jungle Bronze Self Tanning Spray does not wash off and the tanning effect will last up to seven days.

Choose from Jungle Bronze Bronzing Skin Gloss and Jungle Bronze Tanning Spray for your varied tanning needs long after summer is gone.

Kamouflage Cosmetics by Skin Doctors are now available at Rustan's Essenses in Makati, Shangri-La, Gateway, Harrison Plaza, Robinson's Manila, Alabang and Cebu.

JUNGLE Bronze Bronzing Skin Gloss



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KNOWLEDGE TRIP with GUYITO

MAY 30, 31 & JUNE 1
SM MALL OF ASIA
MUSIC HALL

JUNE 9,10 & 11
ROBINSON'S PIONEER
FOUNTAIN AREA

PAINT A GUYITO CONTEST

For a minimal fee, get a chance to paint your own miniature Guyito masterpiece and enter it in our "Paint a Guyito Contest." Winners will be featured in the Junior Inquirer Magazine.

Mechanics
1. Register at the PDI booth
2. Surrender 3 cut-out coupons to get your free miniature Guyito with painting kit or you can purchase it for only P50.
3. Paint the miniature Guyito
4. Submit your entry to PDI representatives

CUT THIS COUPON AND PRESENT TO PDI BOOTH TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL GIFT!
ADDITIONAL 2 COUPONS WILL AUTOMATICALLY ENTITLE YOU TO A MINIATURE GUYITO SCULPTURE WITH PAINTING KIT.

NAME:
ADDRESS
TEL NO:

Nestle Chuckie Kellogg's

Tips for easy, fuss-free hair

IT'S AMAZING WHAT A LITTLE STYLING can do for your hair. Whether you have long or short hair, styling can keep it in great shape.

Gatsby Hair Wax shares some tips on how to become your own hair architect without looking like you spent even one minute in front of a mirror.

Get a good haircut

Ask your stylist (or barber) for a modish haircut and style that will compliment your hair's natural texture, the shape of your face, and even your lifestyle.

Go for a non-sticky look

For total hair control without looking like you're wearing a helmet or you're Elvis Presley's long lost cousin, try Gatsby's Styling Wax Hard and Free. This hair wax sets the tips and roots of your hair without making the hair become hard or sticky as it contains a good balance of water-soluble wax and setting resin. For those with fine hair lacking in body, use Hard & Free to give your hair body and style without the sticky look.

Tease 'em with your tousled mane

For those who sport hair that is a little longer than usual, Gatsby Styling Wax Matte & Hard is the perfect styling product for keeping your hair in place. Matte & Hard contains a component that spreads well to cover the hair and set it in style. It also has a light dispersion component that diffuses reflections to create a matte finish. This, in particular, is good for those who prefer to style their hair with their fingers, giving you a tousled look without the gloss of gel, so you'll look casual yet sexy.

Try the no-fix look

For those who prefer a carefree look, Gatsby Styling Wax Light & Natural is a must-try. Light & Natural spreads through the hair evenly and creates a natural free-flowing hairstyle. So even if she runs her fingers through your hair she will never know that you're wearing a styling wax! Light wax and semi-solid oil produce a soft, dry finish. Liquid oil lightly sets the hair in place. Using this wax will give your hair a dry and natural finish.

Hair wax, unlike gel, is a styling aid that is not sticky but still helps to quickly set a particular hairstyle for that fixed, tousled or the popular, just-out-of-bed look. Simply rub a little between your palms to warm up and then distribute through your hair.

Pick up the Gatsby Hair Wax that suits you best. With this pocket-friendly hair product from Mandom, Japan's trusted name in hair care, nothing will keep you from styling away your hair your own way.

Chocolate on your skin

REVERED BY MANY AS THE ULTIMATE moisturizer, cocoa butter, the extracts from cacao beans, have been used for years to add scent and smoothness to cosmetics, tanning oil, soaps, lotions and creams. Women for centuries have been benefiting from the use of cocoa butter to make skin soft and supple.

Cocoa butter has been used to treat skin conditions such as eczema, dermatitis and even stretch marks, which are a bane for a lot of women. While cocoa butter does not exactly make these unsightly folds disappear, it helps skin look better by making stretchmarked skin feel smoother and softer. Cocoa butter creates a barrier between sensitive skin and the environment, and helps retain moisture.

The scent of cocoa butter also has known positive effects. Experts say it can promote feelings of relaxation and well-being, thus, it is also a favorite in aromatherapy massage.

America's leading manufacturer of quality and value health and beauty care products offers Lander Advanced Skin Care Cocoa Butter Skin Cream and Lander Advanced Skin Care Cocoa Butter Lotion, with the added benefits of coconut oil and Vitamin E.

Use Lander Advanced Skin Care Cocoa Butter Lotion after bath, before going to sleep or anytime you want. For dry and chapped skin, use the skin cream.

The two Lander variants are available in leading groceries and supermarkets nationwide. The two variants are best also for pregnant moms to help retain skin softness during this period.

Lander is also available in other variants with extracts from natural ingredients that are also known for their benefits to the skin, such as Lander Advanced Skin Cream in Vitamin E and Aloe Vera.

Lander Advanced Skin Care Lotion's other variants are Raspberry Pomegranate with shea butter and raspberry extracts, Aloe Vera with Cucumber Extract and Sunflower Seed Oil, Firming Lotion with Sea Kelp and Vitamin A, Dry Skin Lotion with Vitamin A and Vitamin E and Replenishing Vitamin E Lotion with Vitamin A.

Visit www.lander-hha.com.

LANDER
Advanced Skin Care
COCOA BUTTER Lotion
with Vitamin E & Coconut Oil
LANDER
Advanced Skin Care
COCOA BUTTER SKIN CREAM

COCOA butter has been used to treat skin conditions such as eczema, dermatitis and even stretch marks.

DO YOU HAVE CASH TO GO?

You're overworked at the office, with countless hours logged in and a pile of pending work heaped on your inbox tray. You know you're at your wits' end, and the only solution is a spur-of-the-moment getaway to your favorite beach or mountain resort, away from your office cubicle and out into the great outdoors.

Do you have cash to go?

The heat is oppressive, with the temperature rising. Can tempers be any far behind? So you decide to buy the flat screen television you've been eyeing to preoccupy yourself, or buy a new air conditioner to cool your room.

Do you have cash to go?

The kids are on summer vacation, and it's downtime not only for them but for you as well. No books to buy, no sudden expenses to worry about, no daily baon to allot money for. But the year's biggest expense is just around the corner: enrollment.

Do you have cash to go?

With the temperature well above the 30's, it is doubtless that summertime is here. For others, it means a chance to go on vacation. For some, it means beating the heat with a new air conditioner. For parents, it means gearing up for their children's impending enrollment.

Unfortunately, these entail instant funds at your disposal. And in these trying times, quick cash is hard to come by. It's refreshing to know that there's the CASH2GO BEAT Installment Plan that comes with your Metrobank Credit Card where you can enjoy fast funds, for any need or occasion, and pay conveniently at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18 or 24 monthly terms.

For more information, call 8-700-700 to know how you can get CASH2GO or visit any Metrobank branch now.

CASH2GO
The BEAT Installment Plan
You're in good hands with METROBANK
d by Metrobank Card Corpora ... t venture of METROBANK and ANZ

IT'S TIME FOR HER TO GO TO SCHOOL.

With Metrobank's CASH2GO, your credit card becomes instant cash. Just fill out a form at any Metrobank branch and you can enjoy instant funds with a low interest rate per month!

- Instant funds with the CASH2GO BEAT Installment Plan!
- Easy and affordable installments for painless payments at 3, 6, 9, 12, 18, or 24 months
- Immediate cash for travel, appliances, and even tuition!
- For inquiries, call our 24-hour Customer Service Hotline at 8-700-700

CASH2GO
The BEAT Installment Plan

Issued by Metrobank Card Corporation, a joint venture of METROBANK and ANZ

You're in good hands with METROBANK

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Friday, May 26, 2006

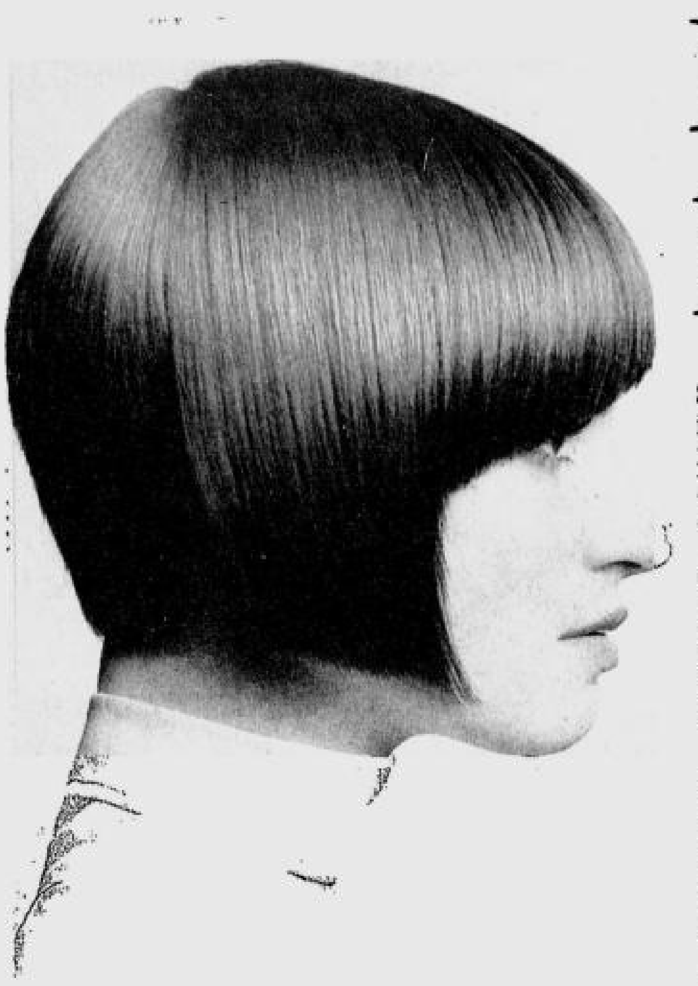
Who will be next? Find out here on your Philippine Idol Network
American Idol
Wed-Thurs-Fri 10pm
ABC
Iba Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

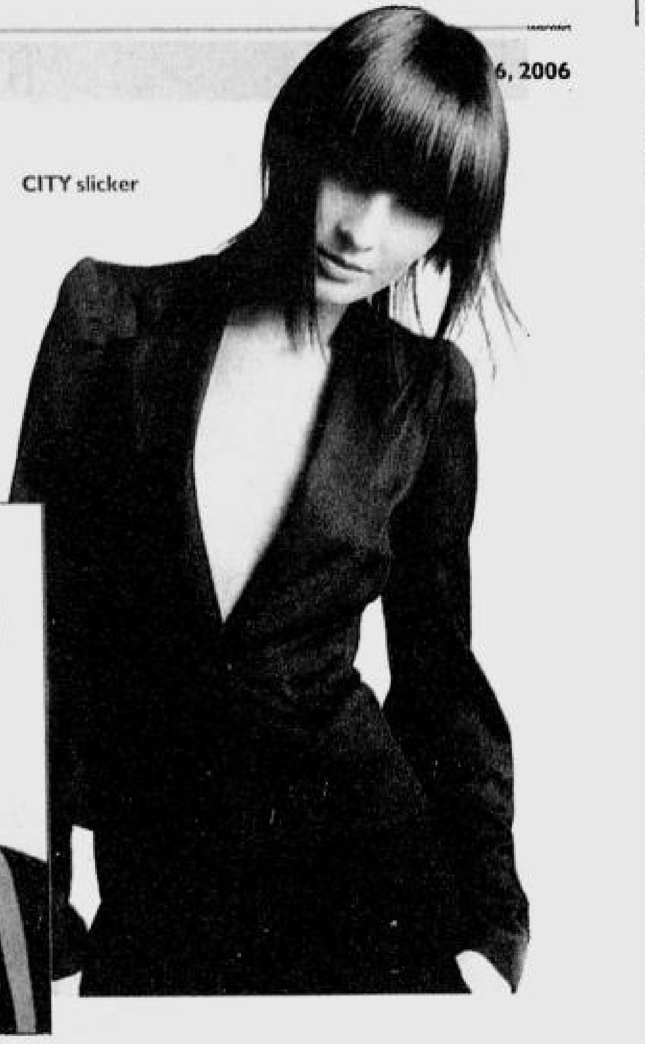
Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	PBA				Sentro	PBA					Big News	Something About Miriam		Real Stories	
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding Twins	TV Patrol World		Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	Pinoy Big Brother	Panday	Wonderful Life	Gudtaym		Trapped	Insider
AXN		When Animals Attack		Sports Disaster IV		Fear Factor (Season V)		Bussmaster (Season I)		Pensacola (Season III)		Gamemax (Season II)	E Buzz	Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle					
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Codename: Kids Next Door	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Power Rangers Ninja Storm	PokeMon	Yu-Gi-Oh Double Duel		The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Don't Cry For Me Papa				Babae				D' Anothers				Kill Bill Vol. 1				Babae Sa Bintana	
Cinemax		Arabian Nights			Somebody Has To Shoot The Picture				Just Cause (6:20 PM)			Running Cool			The Rundown (9:45 PM)				The Man Who Wouldn't Die
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Surface		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Takedown	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		Crossing Jordan	
Discovery Channel	Connect	Extreme Engineering		Ancient Egyptians		Beyond Tomorrow		Stay Alive		Rides		American Chopper		How Do They Do It		Psychic Witness		Crime Night	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/ Un-[illegible] Bunny	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	Goofy Movie			Brandy & Mr Whiskers	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Mickey's Twice Upon A Xmas	
ESPN						High School Basketball: McDonald's All-Am		LPGA Golf LPGA Corning Classic, NY USA Third				Sportscenter Asia	Major League Baseball: Twins [illegible] @ Red Sox						
ETC		American Dreams 3		Change of Heart	Eliminidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		Joan Of Arcadia		American Dreams 3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Trading Spouses		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Backstage	The Gospel Of Life in Health	Defending Life	Life on The Rock Encore		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	Parable	EWTN Bookmark	St. Thomas Aquinas & Today's World	Fr. John Corapi	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man [illegible] (2:45 PM)	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Endless Love 1: Autumn In My Heart By Popular Demand		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Majika	I Luv NY	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Jewel In The Palace		Bubble Gang			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		McLeod's Daughters IV		Back To You And Me				Bewitched	The Nanny	Judging Amy		Sue Thomas F.B. Eye II		Hustle		Jane Doe: Till Death Do Us Part			Hustle (11:45PM)
HBO				Firebird 2015 A.D.			You Got Served (5:40 PM)				Fear (7:25 PM)			A Cinderella Story			Sahara		
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Combattler V	Gundam Seed	Iron Man 28	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mama do Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Gundam Seed
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	TV Infomercial		Japan Video Topics		METV		PBA Best Of The Philippines		Global Family [illegible]	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Jack In The Box				Megas XLR	Beat The Geeks	Mad TV		That 70's Show	Always Sunny in Philadelphia	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Premium Blend	Reno 911	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Design Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	Designing Cents	Food Network Special		Ming's Quest	Intimate Portrait		Behind The Velvet Ropes	Martha		Simply Wine With Andrea Immer	The Great Adventure	Iron Chef America	
MTV Philippines		Boiling Points		MTV Hits	Pop Inc		MTV Hits (with SMS)			Get Spotted	MTV Hits	MTV News	MTV Hits	MTV Diyes		Boiling Points		MTV Hits	
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYXLOG	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Club MYX	MYX Versions	Urban MYX	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	[illegible]		Storm Stories S2: [illegible] Flood	Rough Trades	Perfect Swarm		Top 5 - About Egypt, Secret Chambers Revealed		Wow! Journey Into Amazonia: Waterworlds		About Asia: [illegible] Board		Planet Football Brazil: [illegible] & Beauty Queens		Storm Stories S2: Sri Lanka Tsunami	Rough Trades	Predators at War Pt 1	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Telesports: [illegible]	[illegible]	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		GSIS Member's Hour		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K			
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron	Avatar Legend of Aang	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes!	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Buy One Take One				[illegible] Moms		Magic Ring	Irene	Nardong Toothpick, Noel	Project 11	Ganda Ng Lola Ko		Kulanim	Love Life		Irene	Kulawan
Qtv	[illegible]		Zipang	Kaleido Star	MUS (My Music Station)				The Insider						News On Q	Newswatch Now	TV Greats On Friday		Over The Green Fields
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN [illegible] News	Entertainment Tonight		NBA Conference Finals		Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Shepherd's Voice			
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Quantum Global								SBN Music Video	
Solar Sports						2006 ABC [illegible] Singles				Sagupaan	[illegible] Beach Bum Tour	NBA Playoffs Eastern Conf. Finals Game 2					Solar Sports Desk	PBO recap Day 3	NBA Action
Sports Plus		This Is The PGA Tour		World's Greatest Auto Shows		[illegible] Open/All-Star Challenge Highlights		World Game		Raceworld		[illegible]	Rookie Manual	BD: Las Vegas	Wild Side	FIFA Preview Series 15	Golf Today	Inside the PGA	Fedex St. Jude Classic Day 1
Star Movies		Fatal Error			The Alamo (4:25 PM)				Alien 3 (6:40 PM)				Opening Night	Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London			Taxi (10:40PM)		
Star World	Arrested Development	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Ed		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	TNA Wrestling		The Collector: [illegible] (Series 4)		NYPD Blue (Series 12)		Seinfeld	Walker Texas Ranger
Studio 23	Bewitched	Naruto				Dance Idol	Teen Titans	The Batman	Justice League Unlimited	Wazzup Wazzup	Barkada Nights			[illegible] (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Realty World

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

New glam hairstyles



SIMPLICITY



CITY slicker

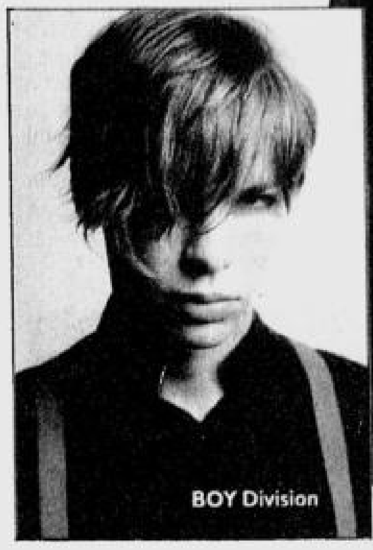
SCHWARZKOPF PROFESSIONAL introduces its Spring/Summer 2006 Glamour Collection, six hairstyles that offer great "wearable for all" looks.

Simplicity is a fresh approach to the '60s silhouettes. This back-to-basics style best complements all things ordered and beautiful. An ideal color for Simplicity is a blend of copper and burgundy tones layered for depth and a glossy finish. This look is a key Glamour trend, a remedy to the overdone Hollywood style.

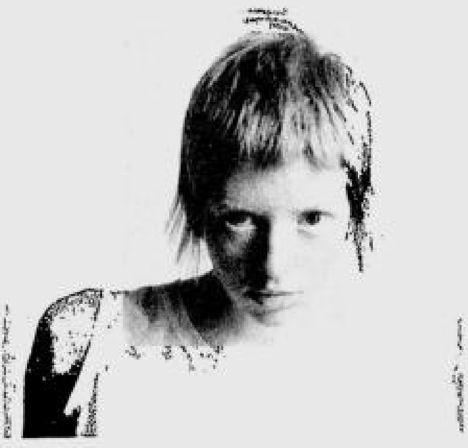
Purity is a desirable choice for everyone seeking a relaxed approach to fashion. Hair is styled in a solid, side-swept fringe, with rounded layers through the back and the extreme broken lengths through the sides and front. Purity comes in lilac and blackcurrant tones that swirl through the cut, running darker to the ends of the hair.

City Slicker creates a standout look with a wide, heavy, mid-length fringe that leads the way for the short undercut shape, and long overhanging weightless panels that unevenly surround the head. This shape can be styled straight for the full-on tailored look or dressed out for something a little more street than neat. Hair color is dark and solid in chestnut brown and deep chocolate with strands of copper.

Sport Luxe perfectly suits casual but tailored styles. Nautical themes rule with clean-cut and tailored shapes mixed with Riviera chic. The sassy, textured shape has short layers through the top with a weightless undercut, convex fringe and weightless sides that can be dressed to leave you looking windblown but still gorgeous. Hair is colored in auburn with a high-gloss finish to catch the light.



BOY Division



SPORT luxe

Glam is all about making a statement in city clubs and bars. The shapes are expanded, over-styled and accessorized. The look is styled in a long seductive fringe and jaw-length shape built for volume, with weight in the outline and slim tendrils of hair through the front. The cut is embellished with a solid deep-gold tone, laced with slices of champagne.

Boy Division creates a grunge rock but neat style for men. Long and teardrop-shape fringes plunge to full lips, while top heavy layers and broken outlines complete this androgynous look. To match the style, hair is colored a dark, muddy brown with a flat matte finish.

Essential Looks was created by the cutting genius of Tyler Johnston, Schwarzkopf Professional's Global editorial ambassador, while Tracy Hayes, Schwarzkopf Professional global color ambassador (2005), used her talents and new shade combinations from Igora to add even greater depth and interest to these styles.

Schwarzkopf Professional's Spring/Summer Collection 2006 Glamour Collection is brought to the Philippines by Top Style Marketing, Inc. with office at Unit 25PA Eisenhower Tower, Greenhills, San Juan (tel. 7231763 and 7268507 to 08).

For clients wanting a new look this summer, visit Nikki Bacay, Schwarzkopf Creative Ambassador 2006, at Traffic Salon, Wilson St., Greenhills (tel. 7218197). She completed the rigid Essential Looks training at the Schwarzkopf Academy in Bangkok, Thailand last February 2006.

Sensational sun-faded makeup

BOBBI BROWN INTRODUCES the Summer Sandwash Collection.

"I was inspired by the look of colors that have been faded out by the sun," said Brown. "Our new sandwashed Lip Color and Lip Gloss shades look great when you have a bit of a tan. The shades were inspired by one of my longtime favorites—Sandwash Pink Lip Color.

"I was thinking of Nantucket and the way everything—from the clothes to the house— has a soft, sun-faded look to it. The late afternoon light there has a magical effect on people's faces. Everyone looks beautiful and flawless... The Sandwash look is soft and flattering with a slight sheen."

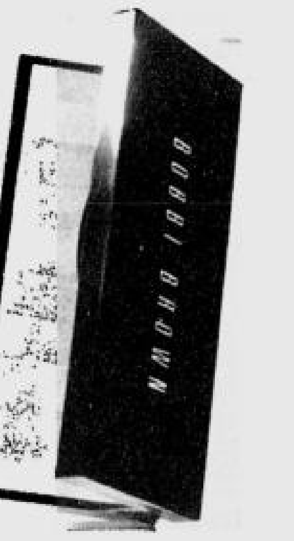
The Sandwash Look includes:

- Bone Eyeshadow all over lid
- Sunshine Shimmer Eyeshadow (from the Sandwash Eye Palette)
- Mahogany Eyeshadow as eyeliner
- New Black Smudge Mascara
- Natural Bronzing Powder
- Nectar Blush
- New Sandwash Nude Lip Color

Inspired by the pearlized pigments used in the Shimmer Brick Collection, Sandwash's limited-edition eye palette features sheer, shimmering shadow shades for eyes. Ten exclusive soft, pastel colors can be worn alone or blended together.

Brown's new innovative mascara formula, meanwhile, delivers multiple benefits:

BOBBI Brown Sandwash look



SANDWASH limited-edition eye palette

- **Long-wear**—Formulated with a special polymer for enhanced staying power. Color is waterproof and can stand up to sweat, rain, even tears.
- **Buidable volume**—Flexible formula allows for customized volume. Create a natural look or a more dramatic look depending on application.
- **Lenghtens, curls and defines**—Patented brush provides an even fuller application, leaving lashes clean, beautiful and perfectly defined.
- **Ophthalmologist-tested**—Safe for contact-lens wearers and fragrance-free.

Rewarding shopping trip

GOINGS ON

THE SHANGRI-LA PLAZA IS HOLDING UNTIL June 12 "Gifts of Indulgences," a promo encouraging shopping at Level 3's fashion stores. Customers get cash vouchers and gift certificates worth P300 for every P3,000 single purchase. The vouchers and certificates can be used on their next visit to the same store. Redemption is until Aug. 31. A fashion exhibit features the latest clothes, footwear and accessories from participating Indulgences stores. Call 6337851 to 70.

SANTACRUZAN. The Santacruzan "Mayohan 2006" will be held from 4 p.m., May 28, at Wow Philippines in Intramuros, Manila. The event will feature gowns made of *katsa*. The Santacruzan will start from Cuartel de Sta. Lucia.

FESTIVAL. The second art and street festival on Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo St.), Bel-Air, Makati City, will be held May 27-28. This year's theme is "Pintahan at Musikahan sa Reposo." The event is organized by Grupo Reposo, an association of the street's various establishments, and is part of the celebration of Makati's 336th founding anniversary.

CONFERENCE. Mary Kay (Phils.) Inc. will hold its Career Conference May 27, at Cebu Midtown Hotel, Cebu City, and Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City. The conference offers a comprehensive education program to help individuals improve their skills. Call 8596211 or visit www.marykay.com.ph

FUN ACTIVITIES. Festival Supermall presents "Summer Bodies 2006," May 26, at 2/L, Carousel Court. RRJ showcases its hottest fashion statement for teens in "Live Your Style" on May 28, also at the Carousel Court. Other events include Wedding Festivals, May 26-28, with a Bridal Fashion Show on May 27. Call 8503514.

MALL ANNIVERSARY. Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall is celebrating its 15th year. At 5 p.m., May 27, Levi's presents "Levi's 501 Stay True Concert Tour" with Pupil, Spongecola and Menayo. At 9 p.m., "Wings Tour 2006" features Freestyle, True Faith and Unity. More prizes are at stake on May 28. With every P500 single receipt, a customer can win gift certificates and other prizes in Name the Puzzle promo.

BAZAAR. "Summer Frills Bazaar" runs until May 31, at the Style Centrale in Eastwood City. Available are items from brands like Wisdom, Carioca, The Closet, Tanline, Bourgheez Boracay, Hermanos Pampanga Basket, Michael's Concept from Cebu, Cole Vintage, Oulucci, Abelicious, Flirtish, Sy-Kat Couture, JL Couture, Ilaya Couture, Kiala, Fruitas, Yeng's Pasta, among others. Call 6876770 to 74 or 0917-8-EWCITY.

SEMINARS. Creative Training Management is offering the following seminars: "Warehouse Management," May 27; "5S to a Better Workplace," May 30; and "Winning Customer Service," May 31. Call 8697960, 8232358 and 8234825.

WED FAIR. The Festival Supermall Alabang presents Wedding Festival until May 28, at the Activity Area. The fair features quality wedding essential suppliers in Southern Manila and Calabarzon. Call 82508, 8253482, and 09208766505 or visit www.kasal.com

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY. The Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation will conduct a practical digital photography seminar starting June 3. Covered are digital camera functions; correct exposure; flash in low light and bright light; digital file format; pixel damage; and preparing images for print, presentations and web transmission. Call 843531 or 8137420.

WORKSHOP. The Filipinas Heritage Library will host a Travel Writing workshop May 31, and June 7, 14, 21 and 28. Traveler and writer Kristine D. Fonacier will facilitate the workshop. Fee is P3,500 inclusive of reading materials. Call 8921801 or e-mail events@filib.org.ph. Deadline for confirmation is May 26.

WELLNESS. MySpa fitness and wellness center holds Aero- Marathon Fitness for Moms, and Belly Dancing, May 27. MySpa is at 2/L, Starmall, Las Piñas.

ACTIVITIES. Power Plant Mall is hosting Ballet Week until May 28, as part of its "Focus on the Arts 2006" campaign. Different schools will perform as part of the culminating activities of their summer programs and workshops. Call 8981702. The Art of Vision will be held May 27-28. It will feature an exhibit of optical illusions. Free vision screening and lectures on eye care will be conducted.

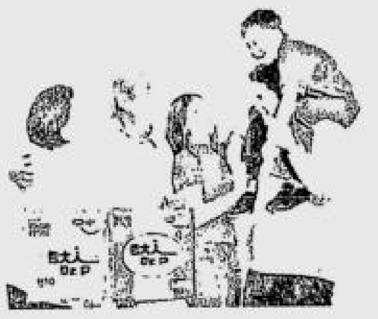
Dr. P Adult Diapers Makes Summer Fun!

The heat is on, and so are summer spoilers such as incontinence, can ruin fun times with Grandma and Grandpa. They can become uncomfortable, itchy and grouchy under the sun's scorching rays. That's why Dr. P Adult Diapers is the perfect summer companion for our elderly loved ones.

Dr. P lifts their spirits with soft and absorbent pads that keep them cool and comfortable. It has Anti-Bacteria action that prevents growth of harmful germs. It also has High Speed Channels that evenly distribute liquid across the pad so it does not stay in one place. Plus! Its Wetness Indicator will signal the right time to change diaper.

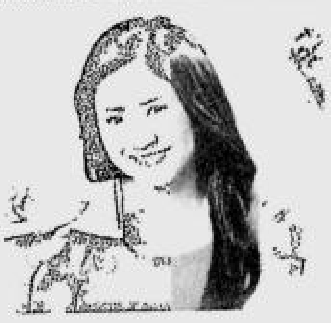
Now our love-ones are spared from embarrassing situations, while enjoying the Dr. P Adult Diaper's tender loving care

Dr. P is available at selected leading supermarkets, groceries and drugstores nationwide. Another quality product distributed by JS Unitrade Merchandise, Inc



Summer Getaway with Charmee

Hassle-free summer getaways with Charmee Feminine Protection. Summertime is here again, and it's fun time for everyone. But before you leave for that great vacation escape, be sure to keep yourself fresh and comfortable with feminine protection that lets you have hassle-free summer getaways. With Charmee Unscented Pantyliner's Dry-Soft & Comfortable Cover, one is assured of smooth and gentle protection; Soft Side Panels prevent side skin irritation; and Strong Adhesives keep the pad securely in place. Charmee Pantyliners are especially designed to make users feel fresh and clean throughout the day. Charmee Unscented Pantyliners comes in 8s, 10s and 20s per pack and are available at very affordable prices in all leading supermarkets, groceries, and drugstores nationwide.



EQ Dry Travel Buddies - a must-have this summer!

Summer is the perfect time to bond with baby by going out and enjoying the sun at the beach, shopping at the mall or having a picnic! And because EQ Dry knows that summer time is the best time for baby to travel, EQ Dry introduces its hottest summer promo---"EQ Dry Travel Buddies"! Get FREE Travel Buddy Bags of your choice when you purchase any EQ Dry pack. Simply collect the points found in each pack and send the empty diaper packs to "EQ DRY TRAVEL BUDDIES" JS UNITRADE MERCHANDISE, INC. 31st FLOOR RAFFLES CORPORATE CENTER, EMERALD AVENUE, ORTIGAS CENTER, PASIG CITY. You can choose from various designs that will be specially delivered to your doorstep, free of charge! Choose from 2 kinds of bags: EQ Dry Baby Travel Baby Bag (comes in pink and blue or green and yellow) which can store all travel necessities of baby; and/or the EQ Dry Animal Face Backpacks which will be a great companion for baby to take on the road - soft enough to hug and big enough to store baby's knick-knacks. This comes in four adorable animal designs: cow, penguin, bear and dog.

This is a great way to give mommies and babies convenience while traveling this summer. This is a special offer for the season so start collecting all designs now!

EQ Dry Diapers are available at all leading supermarkets nationwide. For more details on the EQ Travel Buddies promo, please see posters, flyers and print ads for details or visit www.jsunitrade.com. Per DTI-NCR Permit # 0813 Series of 2006

EQ Dry
TRAVEL BUDDIES

ADVT